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Azerbaijan, Karabakh Begin Peace Talks in Moscow

LD1209173693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 12 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh began talks in Moscow on Sunday [12 September] in an attempt to end the five-year bloody war that has killed hundreds on both sides and made thousands refugees.

The talks which are being attended by First Deputy Azerbaijani Parliament Chairman Affiyatdin Dzhalilov and Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Minister Arkady Gukasyan are mediated by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy Vladimir Kazimirov.

The sides expressed the hope that the talks would be held in a constructive and fruitful key. They agreed that the ceasefire agreement in effect in the war zone since August 31 should be prolonged. Today both sides discussed the agenda. They also intend to discuss a date and place of upcoming summit meeting between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The talks will continue on Monday [13 September].

Representatives Comment on Talks

LD1309155793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By correspondent Sergey Omelchenko, including recording of comments by A.D. Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, and A. Gukasyan, foreign minister of Nagorno-Karabakh republic—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] For the first time ever, high-ranking representatives of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh have held a meeting arranged by the Russian Foreign Ministry. They are to resolve the issue of extending a cease-fire agreement and prepare a summit meeting. Despite differences in positions, the sides are confidently proceeding toward this goal, in the opinion of the participants of the talks.

[Dzhalilov] A constructive start has been made and the sides are showing goodwill. We intend to continue the dialogue and lead the talks to their logical conclusion.

[Gukasyan] The very fact that we are here today and that we have today an opportunity to outline our concern and our doubts in a direct dialogue and find common points proves that we have chosen the right road. I believe this road may lead to peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Cease-Fire May Be Extended

LD1309153093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh may prolong a ceasefire deal that expires at midnight Monday if both sides approve a draft agreement to this effect proposed by the Russian mediator at their talks in Moscow.

The talks mediated by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov are being attended by Azerbaijani Deputy Parliament Chairman Affiyatdin Dzhalilov and Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Minister Arkadiy Gukasyan.

They held a joint news conference after the morning session of talks where both sides called for the need to prolong the ceasefire agreement in the war zone. Azerbaijan insisted on discussing the withdrawal of Armenian troops from south-western regions of Azerbaijan, while Nagorno-Karabakh called for further preparations of a summit meeting between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Nagorno- Karabakh.

Asked if Azerbaijan's decision to sit down at a negotiation table with Nagorno-Karabakh, which it refused to recognise as a party in the conflict until recently, was prompted by recent defeats of the Azerbaijani army or a new political thinking in the republic brought to life by Geydar Aliyev's ascension to power, Dzhalilov said that Azerbaijan considers Armenia as a warring party and expressed regret about its refusal to participate in the Azerbaijani-Nagorno-Karabakh talks.

Azerbaijan's new leadership stands for talks at all levels, Dzhalilov stressed.

Gukasyan said that Nagorno-Karabakh insists on a long-term rather than temporary ceasefire in order that neither side could use the truce to regroup its forces for new offensives. He said an effective mechanism should be worked out to rule out a resumption of hostilities and exercise control over the ceasefire agreement.

Both sides praised Russia's mediatory role in the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement and expressed the hope for successful continuation of bilateral talks.

Leaders' Summit Discussed

NC1309190293 Baku TURAN in English 1510 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 13 (TURAN)—As Moscow's correspondent of TURAN reports, today in Moscow representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh had reached the agreement on holding bilateral summit.

As press-attache of Armenian embassy in Moscow announced, at present representative of so-called NKR

[Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] Arkadiy Gukasyan and Deputy Chairman of Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan Afiaddin Dzhalilov were fixing the date and place of the summit.

It is supposed that parliament chairman of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev and chairman of the parliament of NKR Karen Baburyan would meet. The main goal of the meeting will be prolongation of the truce and cease-fire in the zone of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict.

A. Dzhalilov in his talk with Moscow's correspondent of TURAN told that the matter on the status of NKR was not discussed at the talks.

Joint Communique Signed

LD1409085493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0655 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—The Azerbaijani-Karabakh talks held in Moscow with the assistance of the Russian Foreign Ministry ended last night with the signing of a joint communique. The main outcome of this round is an extension of the cease-fire until 5 October 1993 inclusive. The two sides finally reached the decision seven minutes before the expiry of the previous accord.

The communique, signed by Afiyaddin Dzhalilov [Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet deputy chairman] and [Karabakh foreign minister] Arkadiy Gukasyan, representatives of the leaderships of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, observes that "the meeting in Moscow was a continuation of the contacts—direct, through a mediator, and within the framework of the CSCE Minsk group—which have recently been established." Agreeing that their long-running conflict cannot be settled by force, the parties express the desire to overcome their mutual mistrust. Attaching particular importance to the dialogue which has begun, they reaffirm their willingness to examine the whole range of issues relating to a peaceful settlement of the problems of Nagorno-Karabakh, and principally the issues of a final end to military operations, the withdrawal of forces from captured territories, and the restoration of communications.

"The participants in the meeting consider it important to resolve the contentious issues step by step," the document notes. "They view the CSCE Minsk conference as a forum which could become an effective means of achieving a comprehensive and stable peace settlement."

The Moscow meeting discussed in detail the preparation of a meeting between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. Agreements were made to hold such a meeting and to maintain contacts at various levels. The parties discussed the exchange of prisoners and hostages and a number of other problems. The participants in the talks expressed gratitude to the Russian Foreign Ministry for its assistance in holding them.

Baltic Leaders Discuss Free Trade Agreement

LD1309191993 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Estonian Premier Mart Laar, Latvian Premier Valdis Birkavs, and Lithuanian Premier Adolfas Slezevicius, meeting in Tallinn today, discussed the Baltic states' free trade agreement, customs tariffs and restrictions, and the issues to do with the construction of the international Via Baltica autoroute.

The Baltic News Service was told by the Economics Ministry's protocol department that the Baltic premiers have decided to set up a cooperation commission which will deal with the ratification of the free trade agreement. Several Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian experts will be co-opted into the working group.

Laar, Birkavs, and Slezevicius are signing the free trade agreement at this very moment in the White Hall of Toompea Palace. [passage omitted]

Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan Agree on Arms Reduction

LD1109105193 Almaty Radio Almaty World Service in English 1830 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia have agreed to implement the former Soviet Union's treaty on the reduction of conventional weapons. After the meeting between the foreign ministers of the three republics in Tashkent, capital city of Uzbekistan, the three former Soviet Union republics agreed to destroy 6,000 tanks, 7,000 minor artillery systems, and 1,500 armaments [as heard]. This agreement will (?relate) to the (?liquidation) and conversion of some military equipment in accordance with the USSR's obligations under the agreement on conventional weapons in Europe signed in 1991.

'Congress of USSR Peoples' To Open 20 Sep

PM1409101393 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 3

[Nadezhda Garifullina report: "Congress of Peoples"]

[Text] More than 1,200 delegates from all USSR republics will be coming to the Congress of USSR Peoples which opens 20 September in Moscow in the building of the Moscow Arts Theater named for Gorkiy on Tverskoy Boulevard, or to put it more simply—in USSR People's Artist Tatyana Doronina's theater. Absolutely every republic has expressed a desire to participate in the congress, and delegations are now being put together in the provinces. It is expected that 300 delegates will take part in it from Russia, with 150 from Ukraine, and 100 each from Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan etc. The Congress of Peoples of Belarus will take place in Minsk Saturday 11 September and will elect its representatives.

These and many other facts were were publicized Thursday at a press conference of the organizing committee of the Congress of USSR Peoples. The following cochairmen of the organizing committee answered journalists' questions: Oleg Shenin, chairman of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU Political Council; Sazhi Umalatova, chairman of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies Permanent Presidium; Timur Pulatov, first secretary of the International Writers Association Executive Committee; and Aleksandr Melnikov, deputy chairman of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU Political Council.

In reply to journalists' questions, the press conference participants reported that the congress will not form any power structures, as there already exists a Congress of USSR People's Deputies and its permanent Presidium. The aim of the congress is to form an official organization from the mass public political movement of peoples in favor of resurrecting the unitary state of the USSR.

You should call the following numbers for answers to any questions, including those concerning the accreditation of journalists: (095) 206-35-80, 206-46-95.

Volskiy Linked to Congress

MK1009085593 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 2

[Konstantin Katanyan report: "First Night at the Moscow Arts Theater with Volskiy and Umalatova"]

[Text] Politicians possessed by an insurmountable aspiration to restore the Soviet Union "in any form" have found a new diversion for themselves. A Congress of the Peoples of the USSR, which will apparently inaugurate a civic movement for the restoration of the Union, will convene on 20 September at the Moscow Arts Theater [MKhAT] on Tverskoy Boulevard .

O. Shenin, T. Pulatov, S. Umalatova, and A. Melnikov, cochairs of the organizing committee, made no secret of the fact that "communists have taken on all the rough work involved in convening the congress." Surprisingly, A. Volskiy's name was mentioned as one of the initiators of this idea—in the past, Arkadiy Ivanovich usually chose more respectable company for himself.

Communist Leader Calls For Fight for Workers' Rights

LD1109151693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1441 GMT 11 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—Russia's communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov has called on his supporters and followers to fight for vital interests of the working people.

Speaking at a meeting of communist workers in Moscow on Saturday [11 September], Zyuganov said the Russian Communist Party leadership will seek to organise "chaotically growing resistance of work collectives and transform it into a political struggle for vital interests of the working people."

The meeting was attended by 196 people from 62 regions of the former Soviet Union who "represent all branches of the economy," Zyuganov said. He noted that the meeting has to work out a "single programme to unite the efforts of the working people aimed at preserving the state's integrity and protecting their rights."

"More and more workers begin to understand that the cause of devastation lies neither in the vestiges of Soviet power, nor in intrigues of perestroyka opponents, but in the anti-labour and anti-popular nature of reform," Zyuganov said.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Sep

LD1409054193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0441 GMT 14 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—"The conclusion of the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the Middle East equivalent of the removal of the Berlin Wall" is how today's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (independent newspaper) comments on this important international event.

The signing of the agreement has inspired hope "for the establishment of peace between Israel and its neighbours—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon", the newspaper writes in a frontpaged article.

At the same time NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA emphasises that the ceremony held in the White House is far from being the end of the peace process, but is, rather, only "the beginning of a change of the situation in the region".

"Still, one can probably say that the Middle East, following the ceremony in the White House, will not be the same any longer. The ice of enmity and hatred has begun to melt, inspiring hope for peace and tranquility", the writer of the article observes.

PRAVDA, commenting on the signing of the agreement, points out, first of all, that "the document, which was worked out during secret contacts between the Israelis and the Palestinians, signifies not only the sealing of the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO but also determines principles for the transfer of a number of rights and freedoms which the Palestinian population of the Israel-occupied territories have been deprived of for long years".

At the same time the newspaper thinks that complete achievement of peace in the region and "a final reconciliation of Israel and its neighbours are still a rather long way off."

Matters concerning the privatisation process in Russia are again the subject of comment in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. The newspaper recalls that on September 11 President Boris Yeltsin suspended the enactment of his August 30 instruction on the indexation of the value of privatisation cheques and a reassessment of fixed assets.

The author of the front-page article remarks that Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin did not yet speak on the problem and that his word will undoubtedly be the main one in making decision on the Economics Ministry's proposals on the indexation of privatisation cheques. (The president is known to have instructed Viktor Chernomyrdin, Anatoliy Chubays and Oleg Lobov to "work out a unified position" on the Economics Ministry's proposals on privatisation cheques and fixed assets).

TRUD devotes attention to the development of relations between Georgia and Russia. Reporting the completion of the fifth round of the Tbilisi talks on the issue, the newspaper refers to a pronouncement by Felix Kovalev, the president's roving ambassador, at a press conference at the close of the talks.

Asked how the situation in western Georgia would influence the fixing of a time-frame for the signing of a treaty of goodneighbourliness and cooperation between the two countries, Kovalev pointed out that the treaty would be signed under favourable conditions. In the personal opinion of the ambassador, the current situation cannot be described as favourable. But at the same time Kovalev stressed that a final decision would be made at a higher level.

The results of the four-day official visit to the United States by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev are the subject of an article in today's KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star).

Speaking about the results of his trip, Grachev pointed out in particular that provisions had been made for an exchange of servicemen for training in both the U.S. and Russia, and for joint exercises. A memorandum of understanding also envisages such areas of cooperation as maritime safety, and the provision of information which is of interest to the two sides.

PRAVDA carries an article, the author of which, A. Salutskiy, examines whether the president of the Russian Federation is capable of preserving civil peace in the country. Salutskiy's opinion is that the world community intends to tackle Russia in earnest with all the ensuing Yugoslav-type consequences.

Salutskiy also believes that the West tries to "internationalise the course of Russian events, which would open up opportunities for an intervention from the outside".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA frontpages an article on the financial situation and the state of the banking system in Russia. In the opinion of the writer of the article, it is necessary that the legislative authorities of the Russian Federation make provision for a number of measures aimed at protecting Russian banks, since their assets are extremely small compared to those of foreign banks.

In this situation, the journalist believes, this means that admission of foreign banks to the country's domestic market may lead to the ruin of Russian ones. "Strangers are given access to the domestic market only when domestic entities are able to stand on their own feet. Until then, the state should help their formation and development in every way," he adds.

At the same time SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA today runs some statistical data with reference to the world bank, according to which incomes in Russia in 1992 ran at 2,680 U.S. dollars per capita, which was 17 percent less than in the previous year. Regarding the amount of per capita income, the Russian Federation has drawn level with Mexico, the newspaper points out.

Kozyrev in Washington To Sign Mideast Accord

LD1309122693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Sidoruk]

[Text] Washington September 13 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister and co-chairman of the international peace conference on settlement in the Middle East Andrey Kozyrev arrived for a one-day visit to Washington today to attend the signing in the White House of the Palestine-Israeli declaration. Together with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Kozyrev will also sign the document. Their signatures are diplomatic evidence of the role Russia and the United States have had to play as co-chairmen of the Madrid Peace Conference.

Kozyrev is also due to hold talks with Warren Christopher on bilateral Russian-American relations and some regional and international issues. Kozyrev is then expected to meet with some foreign ministers invited to attend the Washington ceremony.

Signs Peace Accord

LD1309193993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1929 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Korolev and andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington September 13 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev congratulated on behalf of Russian President Boris Yeltsin Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation on the signing of the historic peace agreement outlining principles of Palestinian self-government in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

He welcomed the accord as long-awaited event, but warned that it was too "early to indulge into euphoria." "This is a big, but only the first step on the long path towards peace."

He said Russia, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace talks, "will work on close cooperation with the United States, the United Nations Organisation and other concerned sides in order to facilitate progress in the Middle East settlement."

The agreement was signed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres and PLO representative Mahmud 'Abbas.

The sides welcomed the agreement as an important step towards settling one of the major Middle East problems designed to facilitate progress towards establishing comprehensive peace in the region.

The document was also signed by the co-chairmen of the Arab-Israeli talks—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher.

Meets 'Arafat

LD1409051993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0458 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Alexandr Korolyov and Andrey Loschilin]

[Text] Washington September 14 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who arrived in Washington to attend a ceremony of signing a declaration on principles of the settlement between Israel and the PLO, met with chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat on Monday [13 September]. During the talks the sides discussed ways of the realisation of the achieved agreement and problems of further contacts.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Kozyrev said that the sides had discussed the continuation of Russia's efforts as a co-chairman of the Middle East peace process. "The PLO leader thanked us for cooperation and asked not to slow down the pace of the process, since it is the very beginning of the process rather than its end that is at issue," Kozyrev said.

"There a great deal of work to be done, some of which perhaps, will be done in Moscow. I mean the establishment of joint working groups of experts whom we invited to Moscow to resolve all concrete problems. Palestinians will have to start a new life, endorse budgets, taxes, to begin everything from scratch. Russia is going to take an active part in this process since the matter concerns the sphere of our interests and our long-standing ties.

Once we have done so much to achieve this progress it would be strange if the Russian side refused from further participation in the process. A peaceful economic process is beginning in Gaza strip and on the West Bank of the Jordan River and it is important that Russia is not left aside and that our entrepreneurs take firm positions. And this can be ensured only by active participation since the very beginning," Kozyrev pointed out.

Praises Declaration

LD1409091293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0650 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Korolev and Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington, 14 Sep—The declaration that Israel and the PLO signed on Monday represents a watershed at the heart of the Near East conflict, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has stated in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS. What has been reached is an agreement that is designed to be implemented on a long-term basis with the assistance of agreed-upon mechanisms, while the mutual recognition by the sides creates a new psychological atmosphere around the Arab-Israeli dialogue and opens up potential for its development, a potential which has hitherto been beyond reach.

These accords provide for cooperation between the Israelis and Palestinians in organizing new life in the Gaza sector and on the West Bank. It is the first time that peaceful interaction is being discussed, rather than confrontation, police repression, or intifadah. It is the first time that enemies who looked at each other for several generations solely through the notch on their gunsights are beginning to cooperate. Apart from all the practical aspects of this agreement, this factor seems revolutionary to me, A. Kozyrev stressed.

The minister pointed to the substantial opposition to Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement that still remains. Extremist forces striving to undermine the peace process in the Near East are at the head of this. To prevent this from happening, he said, it is necessary to have political support of those who are not afraid to smash the sterotype of the enemy and to extend the hand of partnership to each other, to gamble on the search for peaceful denouements. This particularly concerns PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. We said to our partners in the West a long time ago, and to the Israelis too, that the PLO in recent years has gone through a considerable evolution, and that 'Arafat himself has become a mature leader who has adopted a number of very important political decisions. These are bold decisions, since it should not be forgotten that extremists from his own camp bring pressure to bear on him. We have worked with 'Arafat earlier, too, and supported him. Today, since the conclusion of that agreement, he has been recognized in the West as well.

Now further coordinated actions by both co-chairman at the talks are necessary, A. Kozyrev said. After all, it should not be forgotten that, in the Arab world, relations with the United States have not always been positive and it is important for Moscow to also lend support to new initiatives. Moreover, we are now seeking progress in other directions more actively. After all, it is no secret that a lasting peace is possible own if a comprehensive settlement is achieved—between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Therefore it is important to make progress in these spheres.

Speaking about his upcoming talks on a peace settlement for former Yugoslavia in Zagreb, where he will be going from Washington, A. Kozyrev commented that the aim being set there by the Russian side is to avert a resumption of clashes, especially between Serbs and Croats in Krajina. That would be simply unacceptable now, he stressed. It is necessary to do everything possible to prevent new bloodshed there.

It must not be forgotten either, the minister said finally, that much depends on the Croatian side in efforts to achieve a compromise on the Bosnian issue. A few steps must still be taken, but they are quite difficult for all the sides, because they now have to make major concessions to each other. Nevertheless, these are concessions that have to be made.

Discusses Issues With Christopher

LD1409092493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Korolev and Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington September 14 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had a meeting in the U.S. Department of State on Monday [13 September]. Their discussion centered on the problems of implementing the Palestine-Israeli declaration of principles for a settlement of the conflict in the Middle East and on further steps on other aspects of the Middle East peace process.

Kozyrev and Christopher also touched upon the situation at the flashpoints on the territory of the former Soviet Union, specifically the situation in the area of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict and prospects for the dispatch of U.N. observers there, Galina Sidorova, political adviser to the Russian foreign minister, told ITAR-TASS.

The Russian Minister shared his impressions of his recent trips to Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The two sides exchanged views on ways to normalise the situation on the Afghan-Tajik border.

Kozyrev and Christopher examined the problems of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The U.S. secretary of state spoke of the results of his talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Kozyrev informed Christopher of the contents of his latest contacts with the foreign ministers of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia.

Departs Washington for Zagreb

LD1409054793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0527 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Alexandr Korolyov and Andrey Loschilin]

[Text] Washington September 14 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has left Washington for Zagreb on Tuesday [14 September]. In the Croatian capital Kozyrev will have consultations on problems of peaceful settlement in former Yugoslavia.

In Washington, the Russian foreign minister attended a ceremony of signing an Israeli-Palestinian declaration envisaging the establishment of limited self-rule in Gaza strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. As a representative of a state co-chairman of the Middle East process, Kozyrev put his signature under this document as "a witness."

During a one-day visit to the American capital Kozyrev had talks with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, during which the sides discussed the situation in different hotbeds of tension on our planet, including the former Soviet Union.

Kozyrev also met with chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting the sides thoroughly discussed Russia's promoting the practical realisation of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule.

Officials View Russia's Role in Mideast Peace Talks

Representative Stresses Links to PLO

LD1309184793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By correspondent Goryachev from Washington, including recording of comment by Viktor Gogekidze, Russian representative at Middle East peace talks—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] A bottom line was finally drawn today under many years of hostility between Israel and the Arab world.

[Goryachev] [passage omitted] The Russian representative at the peace talks, Viktor Gogekigze, says that Russia has used its advantages:

[Gogekidze] We have maintained, historically, close links with the PLO, with its leadership and with 'Arafat personally. In this respect, both President Yeltsin and Minister Kozyrev have kept close relations with the PLO and Israeli leaders. We have played an important part in the rapprochement of their positions in the search for peace and in the conclusion of this agreement.

Chubays Comments on Agreement

AU1409085693 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays by Otto Hoermann in Vienna on 13 September; Chubays answers in Russian with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] [Hoermann] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, the agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis was signed in Washington today. What role did Russia play in the negotiations?

[Chubays] I do not really have anything to do with this area in the government. To my knowledge, Russia has played a certain positive role in the process. I think this is really a historic decision that can only be seen negatively by the most extremist circles of both sides. The sensible people of both sides and the majority of the international community can only back this decision.

[Hoermann] Some observers say that this agreement was only possible because the old Soviet Union does not exist any more.

[Chubays] That is true to a certain extent because the Soviet Union's position was extremely one-sided. It was only oriented toward one side and had nothing to do with existing realities. So what has primarily happened is the recognition of realities by both sides, with the support of the United States and Russia. That was the only way to find a sensible solution.

[Hoermann] You are also minister of privatization. How is privatization going in Russia? Politically, what are you planning to do this fall?

[Chubays] Privatization is going better than one could think. It is going better, in spite of extremely tough resistance, strong political resistance at all levels—above all, resistance from parliament. Nonetheless, the results of privatization are very good.

[Hoermann] Sometimes it seems that privatization is accompanied by corruption. What can one do to abolish corruption?

[Chubays] This is part of the truth, you are right. I am convinced, however, that if we did not carry out the present privatization program, there would be a lot more corruption.

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments

MK1409072693 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 52, 14 Sep 93 (Signed to Press 13 Sep) p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report from Washington under the "Middle East" rubric: "Palestinian Autonomy Agreement Signed. Signatures of Russian, Israeli, PLO Foreign Ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Affixed to Document]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] When asked how Russia was involved in the final stage of the talks, Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said cautiously: "I would prefer not to dwell on this behind-the-scenes subject. Until the agreement is signed, it would be premature to divide the laurels or to try to analyze which move proved decisive. Generally speaking, when a last move leads directly to the signing, I would be better advised not to say that this was precisely what played a decisive role. A great deal of work has been done along parallel lines. If it had not been for the United States and Russia's joint patronage over the process that has grown out of Madrid and includes a series of bilateral negotiations, there would be no atmosphere that made all this possible. If the UN General Assembly had not revoked the resolution equating Zionism and racism two years ago, if there had not been other steps that were not directly related but were symbolically important, we could hardly talk today about the possibility of signing the agreement."

Still, it is a pity that all the laurels will go to the Americans. There is no doubt that Secretary of State Christopher has managed to achieve a great deal within a short period of time. Our diplomacy, however, has accomplished equally good work. Betting on Moscow's special relations with the PLO has proved fully justified. A Russian-American strategic partnership continues to bear fruit.

Khasbulatov Views Mideast Accord

LD1309155593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov received 'Isam al-Na'ib, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Syrian Arab Republic, on Monday [13 September].

According to the Russian parliament's press service, importance of developing interparliamentary ties between the two countries and using the existing potential for many-sided bilateral cooperation were emphasized during the talks.

Touching upon the agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, Khasbulatov emphasized that despite difficulties hindering the resolution of the Middle East problem, it was necessary to take measures to bring the participants in the conflict closer together.

U.S., Russian Roles in Mideast Peace Assessed

PM1309184093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Nadein report: "United States Reaps the Laurels of the Near East Settlement"]

[Text] Washington—Washington is rejoicing—and rightly so. The United States has invested a great deal in achieving peace in the Near East. Recognition that its efforts have borne fruit was indicated by the location for the signing of the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO—the White House. Bill Clinton was the host of the celebration. This is a mark of gratitude not just to him personally, but to several generations of U.S. Presidents.

Only two of the five surviving former U.S. Presidents accepted an invitation to take part in the solemn ceremony on the south lawn of the White House.

The first of these was naturally Jimmy Carter: It was during his period in office that the Camp David Treaty between Israel and Egypt was signed. And the table on which the present treaty is being signed is the same one from Camp David, kept in storage since September 1978.

Former Republican Presidents Ford and Reagan declined Clinton's invitation, citing prior engagements. Nixon did likewise, but without giving a reason.

However, the last Republican President simply could not miss this event, it seems. The victory in the Persian Gulf, so closely linked with the name of George Bush, is regarded as the start of a new dialogue in the Near East.

President Clinton described the guarantee of Israel's security as the main U.S. contribution to the peace process. "We see this as an enormous emotional, psychological, and practical step forward which gives them (the Israelis) a more normal life," the President said, stressing that he was speaking about a country that has been a long and faithful U.S. ally.

U.S. participation excluded from the camp of active enemies of the treaty such influential figures as, for example, the Syrian president. However, there are more than enough enemies of this fragile compromise peace, which is a long way from what both sides wanted. "This strengthens the positions of those who are running risks for the sake of peace and are saying that we will be there for them [radi nikh]," presidential adviser G. Stephanopoulos said. "Only America has the strength to do this." And immediately, coming to his senses, he added: "Oh yes, and Russia too."

At the ceremony Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev represented a country ranking just as high as the United States as a participant in the peace process.

Needless to say, this equality is purely a matter of form, since America's contribution to peace in the Near East far outweighs Russia's. However, without Russia the search for peace would have taken longer and been more complicated; and, if we look at the outline of the agreement being signed in the White House, it is clear how closely it resembles the general model which Moscow has always supported.

The U.S. President has every justification for presenting the Near East peace as a very major diplomatic achievement of the present administration—particularly in the light of the upcoming wrangles with Congress on a number of domestic problems.

We should recognize that the peace that has been concluded in the Near East also benefits our country—something that is also significant in the light of the internal political battles within Russia, which are far more ferocious than anything abroad.

Agreement With Israel on Air Communications Signed

LD1309144293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The first intergovernmental agreement between Russia and Israel was signed in Moscow today. It so happened that it was an agreement on air communications, signed by Russian Transport Minister Vitaliy Yefimov and Israeli Transport Minister Yisra'el Qeysar.

Despite the fact that the document was signed only today, there have been flights between our countries for quite some time. Under seasonal agreements between Aeroflot and the Israeli airline, El Al, there have been about 120 charter flights annually between Russian airports and Tel Aviv.

The prospects, maybe long-term ones, include opening direct railway communications between the two countries, and probably river communications. Vitaliy Yefimov mentioned the existence of river- to-sea vessels, which can be loaded in Moscow and later unloaded in an Israeli port.

In a word, the vacuum in Russian-Israeli relations is now being filled with practical initiatives.

Israeli Court Sentences KGB Spy

PM1309091193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "KGB Still Working..."]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 9 Sep—The Israeli censor has sanctioned the partial publication of the verdict passed 2 September by Tel Aviv District Court in the case of Colonel Shimon Levinson, retired, found guilty of spying for the KGB.

The verdict states, in particular, that Levinson, who has been sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment, caused "long-term harm to Israel's security" by passing secret information to the KGB. According to published extracts from the verdict, it is a question of "nuclear and military secrets" and also of "detailed information concerning Israel's holding of peace talks."

Levinson, who is now 60 years old, held responsible posts in the system of Israeli military intelligence, and during the eighties he was responsible for the security of the apparatus of the prime minister's office.

A witness, who features in the verdict under the pseudonym "Amos," testified that Levinson was preparing to hand over data on Israel's plans in the event of war. "Taking into account the nature of the relations between the former USSR and Arab countries, it is clear what consequences this could have had," the verdict states.

Despite the breakup of the Soviet Union, the information passed to the KGB can be used even today, "Amos" said.

Another witness, "Dan," pointed out that the work methods of certain government establishments—methods which have become known to the KGB—are still being used and cannot be changed.

Levinson himself admitted that over the course of six years he met 11 times with representatives of Soviet intelligence and received $30,000 for his services.

It should be borne in mind, the verdict states, that Levinson "made contact with the Russians on his own initiative, possibly because of the money, and no one forced him to work for them."

At the same time, in passing the verdict, the court took into account Levinson's "sincere repentance" and his poor health.

According to press information, the state prosecutor's office has appealed the court's verdict.

Investigation of Explosion at UAE Embassy Begins

LD1409080893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] An investigation group of the Russian Security Ministry directorate for Moscow and its oblast has carried out a preliminary investigation of the blast at the UAE Embassy, which happened yesterday in the Russian capital. INTERFAX has learned the following from sources at the Security Ministry: The epicenter of the explosion was on the ground floor next to the outside wall of the temporary accommodation of the military attache. The explosive device was a solid high explosive [bezobolochnyy zaryd brizantnogo vzryvnogo veshchestva], which is used for artillery shells in particular. The condition of the consulate worker and the office worker of the military attache of the UAE Embassy, who received mild injuries in the blast, is satisfactory.

Kozyrev Reportedly Recalls Ambassador to U.S.

MK1409074893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Ru[illegible]4 Sep 93 pp 1, 3

[Ivan Negov report under "Moscow Rumors" rubric: "Vladimir Lukin May Be Recalled From Washington"]

[Text] Information about disagreements between Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Russian Ambassador to Washington Vladimir Lukin that has long been circulating around the Moscow corridors of power is apparently being confirmed. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has learned from several reliable and alternative sources that on 10 September instructions were sent to Vladimir Lukin to request agreement for a new ambassador, Russia's current Representative to the UN Yuliy Vorontsov.

Lukin has held the post of ambassador to Washington for a little more than a year. Such an early recall is possible in diplomatic practice in the event that some quarters are not content with an ambassador's performance or if he has made mistakes. Who, then, is discontent with the Washington ambassador's performance?

This is certainly not Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who during his recent visit to the United States signed a letter of acknowledgment to Lukin for his successful activity and good preparation for the visit.

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who visited Washington a few days ago, was also satisfied with the embassy's operation. President Yeltsin himself publicly spoke about the work of the embassy in the United States last fall during his address to the Foreign Ministry, where he referred to it in positive terms.

Apparently, the main person who wants Lukin's departure is Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. His disagreements with Lukin began when the current ambassador still worked as chairman of the Supreme Soviet's International Affairs Committee. Kozyrev himself was appointed to the post of minister on Lukin's recommendation in 1990, and after the breakup of the USSR when the post of minister became more important than that of parliamentary committee chairman, the minister began to show jealousy and took considerable efforts to make sure that Lukin was sent away from Moscow. This jealousy intensified last March when the president's position was shaken. At that time Kozyrev showed weakness and in a conversation with Lukin offered to swap places, which was rejected. It was after that incident, when Yeltsin's position strengthened, that the minister began to insist especially sharply on Lukin's departure from this key post.

To be sure, there is also a more important, political dimension to the disagreements between the minister and the ambassador. Lukin has never concealed his views as a supporter of Russia's unity and its more active and independent foreign policy. By way of an example of the latter, his active support could be attributed to the tough position taken by Deputy Premier Shokhin at talks with the Americans on the issue of the sale of Russian missile technology to India. Kozyrev at that time had his way in pressing for concessions to the United States, as a result of which Shokhin was dismissed as head of the Russian delegation.

The final straw for Kozyrev was apparently Lukin's 28 August statement disseminated at a seminar organized in Moscow by the Accord for Progress faction where he implicitly criticized some of the miscalculations of Kozyrev's diplomacy.

To pursue his diplomatic line, it is extremely important for Kozyrev to cut off an alternative source of information from Washington as represented by Lukin, who has retained personal relationships with a majority of Russian leaders, including the president himself. Kozyrev apparently thinks that career diplomat Vorontsov, who has no clearly articulated political position, will pose a lesser threat to him. Here is the latest proof of this: Kozyrev forbade Lukin to arrive in Moscow to hold consultations with the premier prior to his visit to the United States. Instead of Lukin, the consultations were held by Andrey Kolosovskiy, a counselor at the embassy in the United States who is close to Kozyrev.

There is also another version of this reshuffle, according to which it stems not from political disagreements but from the fact that Minister Kozyrev, anticipating his possible resignation under the pressure of forces discontent with his line, is simply making room for himself as Russia's permanent representative to the UN.

Today Yeltsin's position is not entirely clear. Presumably, Kozyrev could not have resolved to recall Lukin without the president's approval. Sources close to the presidential administration suggest, however, that no edict on the recall has been signed yet.

Formally, Lukin has been offered the post of ambassador to Britain. However, according to information in our possession, Lukin will turn down this offer. He has stressed more than once that he agreed to leave Moscow and become ambassador to Washington at the president's personal request and that he considers this assignment an important political task to ensure reforms in Russia. As a politician and Russian Federation People's Deputy, he does not intend to occupy any other diplomatic posts,

It is more likely that he will return to Moscow, where he will join one of the centrist coalitions or will set up his own political organization. Possibly, he might join Yuriy Skokov's recently organized Accord for the Fatherland union or the efforts by the Accord for Progress faction, of which he is a member as a Russian Federation deputy, to establish a reformist-centrist coalition led by G. Yavlinskiy. The affiliation of such an experienced and influential political figure would be a major acquisition for any organization.

For the presidential team, however, Lukin's departure would be a major loss. Lukin does not belong to those who readily agree with all decisions by the leadership. Nonetheless, he has always resolutely supported the reform course in the most difficult times. At the Fifth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies, when Yeltsin himself and all his supporters favored Khasbulatov's election to the post of parliamentary chairman, Lukin opposed it, trying to explain the dangers of such a choice. During the putsch, when Kozyrev went to the United States, Lukin spent three days at the White House and drew up the draft of the first statement by the Supreme Soviet Presidium on 19 August.

During his work in the United States, he established informal relations with many former dissidents and emigres, representatives of the Russian cultural scene. His personal acquaintance and correspondence with Solzhenitsyn are also known. He knew many of these people earlier in Moscow where in the 1960's-1980's he was close to dissident circles. What Lukin did during the Brezhnev era—when many of the current "friends of democracy" were party propagandists or officials—evokes respect among circles in the Russian community abroad. It is known, for example, that in 1968 he was deported from Czechoslovakia for speaking out against the introduction of Warsaw Pact troops.

Commentary Says Grachev's U.S. Visit 'Flop'

LD1309160993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 6

[Sergey Demidov commentary: "Close of 'Russian Season' in the United States a Flop: P. Grachev's Overseas Visit"]

[Text] Instead of the "Indian summer" in America it seems that they are having a "Russian season." There is no end to the stream of eminent visitors from Moscow across the ocean. Hardly had Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin been given a send-off from Washington a week ago after his purely business trip to Texas and Florida as well as to the Washington DC than it was time to greet Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. But whereas the former's visit, twice postponed because of the dispute between the United States and Russia (started by the Americans, as we know) over Moscow's rocket deal with Delhi, passed on the whole without a hitch, the latter's mission proved less smooth.

Even Radio Liberty, which certainly cannot be suspected of harboring antipathies toward the present Kremlin authorities, used Aesopian language and cited a great many opinions of military experts, including some from the Russian military department and its General Staff, to place a question mark over the purpose and advisability of P. Grachev's long-distance trip. The background to it is viewed as fairly unfavorable.

Firstly because the political leadership and the "brass hats"—the upper echelon of the military establishment—in the United States are seriously concerned about the "intensification of Russia's military presence both in Tajikistan and the Caucasus and along the whole perimeter of the border" of the Russian Federation and the CIS. This alarm is heightened in particular by the confidence of many American figures that the murder of the "diplomat" Fred Woodruff (he was in fact a staffer of the CIA) near Tbilisi in August was not a tragic coincidence but was carried out by officers of the Russian Defense Ministry. Moscow, Radio Liberty notes, has thus indicated to Washington and Langley—CIA headquarters—that it will not tolerate any impudent interference by the United States in Georgia.

Furthermore, mystery still surrounds the two treaties on the further reduction of strategic offensive arms—START I and START II—which have already been signed. The former, concluded back in July 1991, that is, in the Soviet era, has still not been ratified by the parliament of independent Ukraine. The prolonged delay over its constitutional approval by the Kiev legislators has made it impossible to strictly fulfill all the provisions of this most important document. But Gen. Grachev is giving a hostile reception to the U.S. side's proposal to place Ukraine's nuclear missiles under international control which, according to Washington, would make it possible to break the START I deadlock caused by Kiev's nuclear stance. Understandably, this does not please Washington. There are other acute problems, such as increasing the Russian peacemaking forces in the former Yugoslavia (which the Americans are insisting on), which have also been left up in the air.

In Radio Liberty's words, the Russian defense minister's U.S. program was something of a "jaunt," and this is causing great doubts, too. Was it really necessary for him to cross the ocean complete with a sizable entourage just to sign a memorandum on the establishment of relations, deliver a lecture, and visit a few military installations? Why did P. Grachev and U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin not set their signatures to that document during their recent meeting in the FRG? What kind of lecture can a Russian general deliver when the army in his charge today is nothing to write home about? These questions which, according to the radio station's correspondent, troubled many people in the Defense Ministry and the General Staff have apparently been answered indirectly by... U.S. journalists. They simply showed virtually no interest in P. Grachev's visit and were conspicuous by their absence wherever the Russian defense minister went. Yet they are always hungry for any worthwhile information and have a fine flair for a potential scoop.

Thus the defense minister's attempt to bring the "Russian season" in America to a dignified close, and in my view the visit by the chairman of our country's Council of Ministers was supposed to be the highlight of that season, did not work. It was a flop.

Kozyrev Views Situation on Tajik-Afghan Border

PM1309131593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report under the "Events and Comments" rubric: "Moscow Places Obstacle in the Way of Muslim Extremism in Central Asia"]

[Text] Kabul-Dushanbe-Bishkek—Russia does not intend to "leave" Central Asia and is prepared to assume full responsibility for maintaining stability in this region—this is the main outcome of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's two-day tour along the Kabul-Dushanbe-Bishkek route.

The main subject of the talks in all three capitals was the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and in Tajikistan proper. It is becoming increasingly obvious to Moscow that strictly military methods of controlling the situation do not have long-term prospects. And although, according to the minister, we can expect the reinforcement of military contingents from Russia and CIS countries in the border areas, the central task is nevertheless creating conditions for dialogue between Imamali Rakhmanov's government and the representatives of the moderate opposition.

Kozyrev drew a clear distinction between the opponents of the current regime in Dushanbe who are capable of political compromise, and those who, in his opinion, represent the extremist camp financed from abroad.

"What is happening on the Tajik-Afghan border is part of the general offensive of political extremism which is taking refuge in Islamic slogans, but in actual fact has nothing to do with religion. Algeria, Egypt, and Tajikistan are elements of a single mosaic," the chief of Russian diplomacy believes.

All the indications are that the motive of countering pressure from religious fanaticism is a dominating factor in Russia's regional strategy. It is expected that at the next UN General Assembly session at the end of September, Kozyrev will raise before the world community the issue of supporting Russia's peacekeeping efforts along the length of the southern borders of the former USSR, including the Transcaucasus.

At the moment it is difficult to tell how successful the Kremlin's attempts are to set up dialogue between the opposing sides in Tajikistan. The meeting with representatives of the opposition which was scheduled in Kabul did not take place, apparently because of their absence from the city. However, the assumption that both Rakhmanov's opponents and the Afghan leaders who sympathize with them are biding their time, preferring to check the seriousness of Moscow's intentions in conducting such a difficult discussion, seems more logical.

In this respect, Kozyrev's first official meeting with Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar was a most important aspect of the trip. It was indicative that not only did the head of Russian diplomacy manage to secure a promise from the premier to release in the next few days several prisoners of war who have been in the hands of the mojahedin since the 1980's, but that the two politicians' views on the general prospects of a settlement in Tajikistan coincided. Its outline is as follows: talks between Rakhmanov and the opposition—free elections under international supervision—the formation of a government of national accord—the return of refugees.

Clear disagreement is only to be observed on one point: Hekmatyar has sharply opposed the presence of CIS coalition forces on the border, insisting that the stabilization of the situation there is the affair of Kabul and Dushanbe. But, first of all, Tajikistan does not have either its own army or its own border troops. And second, the CIS treaty on collective security and the Russian-Tajik treaty on friendship and cooperation make the presence of coalition units absolutely lawful. "No one is against the idea of the Afghans and the Tajiks settling the border problems together. The only thing that is not clear is how this can be done without the Russian border troops that are protecting this border and, what is more, are perishing there," an informed diplomat from Andrey Kozyrev's entourage noted in this connection.

At the same time it must be noted that Russia intends to help Tajikistan in the formation of state structures which will be capable of assuming responsibility for the state of affairs in the country in the future. The creation of a special mission of advisers under the the republic government is called upon to assist in this. "We do not intend to play the role of teachers of democracy, but Russia should not shed responsibility for what has happened in Central Asia in the past 70 years," Andrey Kozyrev said.

Delegation Head Views Withdrawal Talks With Estonia

LD1409095293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0240 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] The 14th round of Russian-Estonian talks on normalizing relations is beginning in Moscow. On the eve of this event our commentator Lidiya Podolnaya met the head of the Russian delegation at the talks, special Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin. Here is a recording of their conversation.

[Begin recording] [Podolnaya] Vasiliy Vasiliyevich, what do you think? Has some kind of turning point in relations now been reached?

[Svirin] It is difficult to make a clear judgement on this. A complex and at times agonizing process of formulating an agreed legal basis for relations between the Russian Federation and the Estonian Republic has been going on for a year and a half. More than 40 draft treaties and agreements on the most varied questions of bilateral relations have been considered. To date 13 of these have been signed, nine have been initialed, and 18 are still on the negotiating table. Can we regard this result as a small success of the work of the two state delegations? Evidently we can, precisely as a small success.

[Podolnaya] So we come to the 14th round. What specific issues are to be resolved?

[Svirin] The main issue, as always, will naturally be that of the withdrawal of troops. To a considerable degree the draft treaty on the withdrawal of troops under the conditions of their temporary presence on the territory of the Estonian Republic has been agreed. But the main differences still remain: the time of withdrawal, the ownership of the fixed property of the troops, and compensation for ecological damage. We are coming to the 14th round with a confirmation of our proposals for a definitive deadline for the withdrawal of troops—the end of 1994. The Estonian delegation, up to the last round—including the 13th round, which was held in July—firmly upheld its own position that the troops should go by 31 August 1993. Time has canceled that deadline. For the moment I do not know what new proposals the Estonian delegation will bring with them.

The block of so-called border issues still remains a complex set of issues. Mayak listeners are already familiar with the absolutely unfounded territorial claims that the Estonian side is making on the Russian Federation. We resolutely turn down any attempts to claim 2,000 square km of Russian territory. We intend to patiently persuade our partners to discuss the draft

agreements that are on the negotiating table: on the border, on the demarcation of the economic zone and the territorial shelf, on border crossings [o peresechenii granitsy], and on border representatives. [end recording]

Deputy Calls For Reunification With Ukraine

LD1009114393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Sergey Kireyev, a people's deputy from Tula Oblast, has advised Russia's Supreme Soviet to ask the Ukrainian authorities to include an additional question at the forthcoming referendum—namely, whether the Ukraine should reunite with Russia. His telegram notes that the fraternal peoples of the Ukraine and Russia are suffering colossal difficulties because of the rupturing of economic ties and the undermining of the age-old spiritual and political unity among the Slavs.

Yeltsin, Finnish President Discuss Relations

LD1309115393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 13 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President Mauno Koivisto of the Finnish Republic had a telephone conversation on Monday. It was held on the initiative of the Finnish side, the Russian president's press office told ITAR- TASS. The presidents exchanged view on a wide range of problems.

They discussed in particular bilateral relations between Russia and Finland and analysed the results of cooperation between the two neighbouring countries in different fields after their last summit meeting. The presidents stressed the positive shifts in the economic sphere.

Both sides confirmed that they had no differences in approaches to the solution of major foreign economic problems.

Burbulis Comments on Visit to Japan

LD1209160393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0510 GMT 12 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Gennadiy Burbulis ended his visit to Japan yesterday. Currently, Gennadiy Eduardovich is the head of the nongovernmental organization "Stategy Center." His visit was nonofficial. This is probably why our colleagues from the main news bulletins did not pay much attention to it. The Western television companies, on the other hand, seemed to attach much importance to this visit. On his arrival in Sheremetyevo Gennadiy Burbulis was bombarded with questions. Talking about the Russian-Japanese territorial problem, the former state secretary of Russia has confirmed his position, which he had already made clear in the course of his visit. He said it is necessary to restore historical justice in relation to the Japanese side. At the same time, any infringement of the interests of the Russians living in the disputed territories should be categorically ruled out. Does Gennadiy Burbulis realize that such statements will bring about a storm of indignation from the national patriotic forces and immediately raise such questions as who gave him the right to interfere in one of the most complicated issues of the Russian foreign policy?

[Begin recording] [Burbulis] I would like to answer, for myself as well as everybody else, in the following way: First of all, I have a right to my own views on this issue and I have thought this over very carefully. I am prepared to defend my position. Second, judging from what is happening in our country and in Japan today, I am convinced that it is in Russia's paramount national interest for the next 50 to 100 years for Russian-Japanese relations to be immediately and without delay fully valid and mutually beneficial. [end recording]

[Announcer] Anyway, Burbulis resolutely denied the journalists' suggestion that the visit to Japan of one of the key figures in Russian politics today, even in an unofficial capacity, on the eve of President Yeltsin's visit is not just a mere coincidence.

[Begin recording] [Burbulis] You should once again try to understand this: I made this visit, first of all, as head of a nongovernment delegation. It is precisely in this capacity that I was making my statements, took part in discussions, and tried to draw general attention to our Russian prospects. At present I will continue to remain in this capacity. Of course, I will try to present to my colleagues, the media, the general public, and our leaders and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a clear picture based on my conclusions and impressions from this visit. I will also try to meet Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. I do not see anything special or surprising in this. For a long time we were putting our hopes in the state, diplomatic, and—in this sense—departmental results. I am convinced now that we should also be helping our Foreign Ministry officials, our government and the president. We should be trying to involve the cultural and political figures in this process, as well as the public in general. [end recording]

Impact of Visit Pondered

PM1309130993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Gennadiy Burbulis: 'I Play For Big Stakes'"]

[Text] At the end of his Japanese trip, Gennadiy Burbulis, former Russian state secretary and now a private individual heading the "Strategy" center, finally crossed the threshold that for a long time was inaccessible to major Russian radicals.

After an initial "warm-up," airing the well-known theses of legality and justice, which Moscow has made the cornerstone of the "new" Russian-Japanese relations, Gennadiy Eduardovich switched effortlessly at the talks

and in his public utterances to a qualitative assessment of the territorial question that was consonant with the Japanese concept, and then to a declaration to the effect that the disputed islands must be and inevitably will be returned to Japan sooner or later.

The Moscow visitor said that the territorial question is the direct result and legacy of the aggressive policy of the Stalinist regime, which must be expunged, with historical justice being restored. According to Burbulis, the solution of the problem should not be left to future generations—it must be done more quickly, but on a "realistic basis and without being categorical about it." Developing the theme, the former state secretary stressed that justice must be restored, although certainly not right away. The realities—Russian and world—have to be taken into account. Burbulis dismissed the extremes on both sides, describing as unacceptable the attitude that questions the very existence of the territorial issue in bilateral relations and the position that calls for the disputed islands to be returned to Japan immediately. The fact that the former extreme was formulated just recently by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin did not bother Gennadiy Eduardovich—according to what he told Russian reporters, the premier's statement was purely a personal opinion, and from that viewpoint "Vitya's position and Gena's position" are to be given equal consideration—no more than that.

But it would not be quite right to accuse Burbulis of simply "surrendering the islands to the Japanese." The former state secretary's "formula" has many layers that can absorb opponents' retaliatory blows, and in this sense his current "private status" is by no means his strongest "trump card." According to Burbulis, the solution of the problem as proposed by him must be seen not as a specific task, but as a philosophical principle, recognizing that the official state position is bound to be more reserved. But historical truth and human justice have already been implemented in Russian diplomacy, the former state secretary said, in particular in episodes involving the assessment of the events of the Prague spring and Katyn tragedy. In Burbulis' opinion, which hardly anyone is going to regard as incontrovertible, the Japanese-Russian territorial dispute has an identical historical texture (tyrannical totalitarianism) and the same ideological foundation for the denouement (purge). It is merely a matter of the timing and the pace of the movement toward this denouement.

The former state secretary did not say how many moves or years it might take to cover the ground, but he did emphasize that the "restoration of justice should exclude any new injustice," meaning the fate of the people whom fate brought to the disputed lands. "Milestones" on the road to the appointed goal would be the comprehensive development of relations, the creation of a joint enterprise zone, and the formation of a new body called the "confidence committee," in which members of academic circles and the general public would talk about what do to next with the islands.

There was a dual reaction in Japan to the "Burbulis formula"—on the one hand, gratitude to the author for a reading of the subject that is similar to that of the Japanese. On the other hand, overt skepticism, mixed with typical Japanese pragmatism. The visitor was not directly accused of being a political romantic, but he was firmly put in his place on a number of occasions. For instance, vice premier and foreign minister Hata, who Burbulis met with on Thursday, found the idea of a "confidence committee" curious, but voiced profound doubts about how the new committee would fit into the existing extensive framework of structures for fruitful but not always productive public debate and, on the subject of the creation of a joint enterprise zone on the disputed islands, he noted that Tokyo is entirely in favor of it, but only after Japanese sovereignty over them has been officially recognized.

Basically, the Japanese were interested not so much in the road to harmony drawn by Burbulis as in practical matters—will Yeltsin come in October, and, if so, with what; how strong is the current Russian administration; how practicable is its running of the country; what is the president's state of health; and so on and so forth. It was difficult for the visitor, with his characteristic strategic vision, to answer these "mundane questions," although the local audience does remember some answers. For example, at his last press conference Burbulis said that President Yeltisn has no health problems—"It is (I quote) just one of the foulest rumors put put by the revanchists in the country."

While stressing that his theories were unofficial, Burbulis admitted that he had "deliberately jumped the gun" on territorial matters in order to "extend the distance" of the bilateral dialogue and aid mutual contacts between the countries, which have reached a diplomatic impasse. "I play for high stakes," Gennadiy Eduardovich noted, refusing to accept that his playing might well give the president and Russian Foreign Ministry a bigger headache. Burbulis' chief motivation was, as he saw it, a rare chance to significantly dynamize Russian-Japanese relations, taking advantage of the advent of a new Japanese cabinet. It is Burbulis' belief, albeit as yet unconfirmed, that movement in the Russian sphere could be an important element in this cabinet's program of reforms.

The future will tell whether the former state secretary's calculations are correct. Certainly, though, it is naive to expect significant Japanese moves without equally significant Russian concessions. While paying tribute to the Moscow visitors' resolve to make a breakthrough by wielding the philosophical principle, what one can expect now is not the finale of the territorial "drama," which, presumably, is still rather a long way off, but Russian reactions to Burbulis' Japanese statements.

Tokyo 'Suspicious' of Russian-U.S. Space Station Plan

LD1009164693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 10 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo September 10 TASS—Tokyo is suspicious about the Russo-American agreement to launch a joint international orbital station, because it fears lest Japan might be barred from participation in the American part of the project. It is believed in the Japanese Foreign Ministry that it is yet too early to claim that Moscow's participation in the West's joint space programmes would benefit anybody except Washington, the "JAPAN TIMES" writes today with reference to high-ranking sources in the Foreign Ministry.

The September agreements between Russia and the United States are tantamount to the merging their national plans to set up permanent orbital bases in order to save means and accelerate the job. The previous American "Freedom" station programme was drawn up in cooperation with West Europe, Canada and Tokyo. The latter was entitled to its own "nook" on the future station, known as the "Japanese module", for experimental purposes and for manufacturing particularly pure chemical compounds.

However, the merging of the Russian and American programmes will shift the orbit of the international station much closer to the equator than initially planned. This is necessary to allow both Russian and American shuttle vehicles, launched from different cosmodromes, to reach the future base. Hence, launched from the United States would have to take on board more fuel and reduce their payloads correspondingly. Therefore, Tokyo fears lest there will be no place on the station for the "Japanese module".

Japan plans to hold consultations with the American, Canadian and West European partners under the "Freedom" project in order to discuss the looming situation, ITAR-TASS was told by officials of the Japanese Science and Technology Board.

Japan Dispatches Fuel to Kuril Island

LD1409100093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] All industrial enterprises on Iturup island are at a standstill for the second consecutive day. This is due to the lack of electric power—fuel was not delivered to local power stations. In the past three weeks, the residents have only had electric power in the evenings, and even then for just a few hours at a time. The local authorities failed to do anything about the latest disruption in the supply of diesel fuel. The chairman of the Kuril Rayon soviet had to send a letter to the Hokkaido governor asking for help. The Japanese side was quick to respond. ITAR-TASS reports that a Japanese tanker is on its way.

Sakhalin Governor Seeks Japanese Aid for Tunnel to Continent

LD1309145393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1157 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk September 13 TASS—The governor of the island of Sakhalin, Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov, proposed to the Japanese Aomori Prefecture to join efforts in constructing a tunnel which would link the island with the continent under the Nevelsk Strait.

The project estimated at 410 billion roubles in 1991 prices may be completed early next century and Krasnoyarov believes the tunnel would grant the Japanese a direct access to the Russian Far East and Siberia.

He told a delegation of the prefecture on Monday that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had o'kayed the preparation of the preliminary documents for the project which was proposed for the first time over 50 years ago.

Earlier the Sakhalin administration had proposed to the Japanese Transport Ministry to construct a railway linking Komsomolsk-on-Amur with the settlement of Nogliki in Sakhalin.

Communications Agreement Signed With China

LD1309200993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] A document that significantly expands the possibilities of telephone and telegraph communications between Russia and China has been signed in Beijing. Our correspondent Vladimir Kulikov reports:

[Kulikov] Those who have commercial, trade, and cultural links with Chinese organisztions know full well how difficult it is sometimes to get through to Beijing or to send a fax there, even from Moscow, not to mention other Russian towns. There are similar problems on the other side of the border. This is not surprising as only two telephone channels connect our countries—incidentally, the volume of trade between our countries has already reached $6 billion.

The agreement signed in Beijing is at least alleviating the acuteness of the problem at present. The Russian minister of communications stated in an interview to your correspondent that, by the end of the year there will be 90 telephone channels instead of just 2. This is only the beginning in meeting the needs for Russia- China telephone communications. According to the minister, there should be tens, hundreds, even thousands of communication channels between Russia and China. There are possibilities for this through the use of space communications and the reconstruction of already existing lines.

All these issues will be on the agenda in the very near future when an interstate agreement in the sphere of communications is signed between the two countries.

Both sides are already carrying out preparations for it. As to our Ostankino, television, and radio correspondents, and correspondents of Russian newspapers in Beijing, we are no less interested—maybe even more—than others in the improvement of telephone and other types of communications. Our correspondents in Beijing will be reaching listeners, viewers, and readers quicker.

China 'Ready for Joint Projects' in Rocket Technology

PM1309162593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 15

[Boris Konovalov report: "Chinese Rocket Builders Ready for Joint Projects With Russia"]

[Text] Beijing—The system of academies is widely developed in China's defense sectors. I have visited one of five aerospace industry academies that specializes in rocket building.

But, despite the undoubted progressive nature of such a structure, within the walls of the academy I recalled our recent past, when the Union kept absolutely everything secret—everything necessary and unnecessary.

There is a museum of cosmonautics outside the academy fence. China is conducting active space research, and 32 satellites were launched last year. Exhibited in the museum is a working model of the launch of a "Long March" rocket, and the rocket itself is full-size. But-...photography is not allowed. A secret project. Although the PRC is trying to break through to the world market with this rocket.

It is not having much success at present. Hopes for commercial launches have not been fulfilled. They seem to be taking the sad experience of our rocket industry into account. As in our country, conversion is taking place here. For example, I was shown an automatic line for the tobacco industry which rocket builders have created.

But even though Chinese rocket building is now experiencing funding difficulties, the PRC is not abandoning its ambitious plans to create more powerful rockets and make a manned flight.

"Rocket technology in China came into being with the help of Soviet specialists at the time of our 'special relationship'," Prof. Li Jianzhong, vice president of the Academy of Rocket Building, told me. "Then we relied on our own resources, and we remain true to this principle even now. But we strive to imitate all the best things in advanced countries. Russia and China are great countries which need cosmonautics. We are ready for joint projects."

Chinese Violations of Far East Border Detailed

OW1309212393 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0830 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From the "Kray News"]

[Text] Our Far East border is often called quiet, probably because no shots are fired here, and the blood of young men does not flow like it does at, say, the Tajik-Afghan border. Nevertheless, the events taking place lately on the Amur River and in the Ussuriysk demonstrate that the border guards can only dream of quiet. Our closest neighbors, the Chinese, ignore all existing agreements and systematically violate the state border, catch fish in Russian waters, land on our shores, and steal timber and anything they can lay their hands on. The situation goes so far that they stop vessels of the Amur steam ship company and extort diesel fuel, paint, and provisions from the river sailors. Unfortunately, our citizens do not really resist the violence of the Chinese. Sometimes, they willingly make contact with PRC peddlers. Only recently, several Chinese junks drew alongside a Russian tugboat near the village of Puzino, and a lively exchange of goods ensued. When border guards' motor launches carrying an inspection team arrived, visitors from across the river beat a hasty retreat. Many Chinese goods were discovered on the Russian vessel. The captain of the diesel ship gave a confused explanation to the effect that the goods had been purchased in a commercial store, but did not specify. Competent organs will investigate these events.

Commentary Views U.S. Efforts in Korea

SK1409073893 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Commentary by station commentator Vladimir Korolev from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] Assistant Secretary Robert Gallucci, who is in charge of military and political affairs at the U.S. State Department, is visiting Seoul. He came to brief the ROK side on the talks between the DPRK and the United States. The main item on his agenda in the ROK is the nuclear issue on Korean peninsula.

The success of the North-South talks may well depend on the resolution of the nuclear issue. During the talks between the United States and the DPRK in June, the two countries promised to fulfill their respective duties stipulated in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Pyongyang said it is ready for dialogue with the ROK.

Some press reports, however, are critical of the DPRK for passively complying with the terms agreed upon. The talks between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency held in early September reportedly failed to achieve any positive results.

The West keeps expressing suspicion over nuclear weapons development at two military sites on the outskirts of Pyongyang. The South-North dialogue has also been suspended. Although the relations between Pyongyang and Washington, and Pyongyang and Seoul are deteriorating, Robert Gallucci and the ROK's Kim Yong-sam showed their readiness to continue to make efforts to settle the nuclear issue on the peninsula.

This is not an issue limited to the South and the North. This is an issue of vital importance for the entire world, including the Asia-Pacific region.

Political Issues

Yeltsin To Convene Presidential Council 14 Sep

LD1309121993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 13 September—The political situation in Russia will be analyzed at a meeting of the Presidential Council that Boris Yeltsin is convening on Tuesday, 14 September. Yuriy Baturin, the president's counsellor, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that the health of Boris Yeltsin allows him to keep to the planned work schedule.

Questions of "the political strategy for September-October" evidently will be discussed at the Presidential Council. These probably include the setting up of the federation council, the discussion of the means for the possible holding early elections, and also constitutional reform.

Government Presidium Views Fuel, Energy Issues

PM1309145193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 1

[Vladimir Khrustov report under "In the Government" rubric: "Energy for Reforms"]

[Text] Three special-purpose federal programs for 1993-1995 were discussed and subsequently adopted at a regular session of the Council of Ministers Presidium held yesterday under the chairmanship of First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets: "Fuel and Energy," "Reviving Russia's Merchant Fleet," and "Fire Safety and Social Protection."

If we do not manage to stabilize the situation in the fuel and energy complex in the near future, this will have a ruinous effect on the country's economy as a whole because it is the fuel and energy complex that is the basis of our national economy, Yuriy Shafranik, Russian Federation minister of fuel and energy, said in presenting the draft program. The slump in the production of energy resources, the reduction of investments in the fuel and energy complex, and the continuing disintegration of its construction complex, and, as a consequence, the reduction of production capacity, are fraught with extremely negative consequences for the Russian economy. The "Fuel and Energy" state program is designed to prevent economic reform from being stalled by fuel and energy curbs, Shafranik stressed.

The program, elaborated in line with the government-approved concept for energy policy in the new economic conditions, consists of 24 innovatory, scientific and technical, and sector-based subprograms. For example, there is "Energy Conservation for Russia," "Ecologically Pure Power Engineering," "Progressive Technologies for the Comprehensive Exploitation of Russia's Fuel and Energy Fossil Resources," and "Preparation of the Raw Materials Basis for the Development of the Fuel and Energy Complex," "Construction of Nuclear Electric Power Stations," and several others.

The Russian fuel and energy minister stressed that the "Fuel and Energy" program is a core component of the federal program for the structural overhaul of the Russian economy in the period through 1995. Its implementation will bring the economy 35-40 million tonnes of ideal fuel by 1995, and by the year 2000—200-220 million tonnes (by comparison with 1990).

As always, funds—and considerable ones at that—are required in order to make the plans a reality. In this case—34 trillion rubles [R] (at 1993 prices). Understanding the difficulties with budget funding, power workers intend primarily to rely on themselves. Enterprises can earn the money themselves, but right now, the fuel and energy complex, Yuriy Shafranik noted, is in a severe financial crisis. Only quite recently the debt of fuel and energy consumers to the fuel and energy complex stood at R1.7 trillion; today it has passed the R5 trillion mark.

This is why a key element of the program is financial stabilization of the fuel and energy complex. An extrabudgetary energy conservation fund is designed to play a special role here. The Ministry of Finance has a different approach. Its officials suggest that it is expedient to consolidate within the budget system the specialized extrabudgetary sector funds provided for the funding of the program and to fund energy-conservation programs via deductions from the enterprises and organizations consuming fuel and energy resources.

Summing up the results of the discussion of the energy program, First Vice Premier Soskovets drew the attention of the session participants to the need for the maximum exploitation of the capacity of Russian industry, especially that of converted defense plants, to provide the power engineering industry with domestically produced equipment.

Something is wrong, he remarked, when the warehouses of the Kalinin plant in Yekaterinburg are literally crammed with cut-off valve which are superior to the best foreign equivalents, while we spend hard currency on purchasing this equipment.

The two other special-purpose programs—on reviving the merchant fleet and on fire safety—were actually adopted without discussion. This unanimity is easily explained: Both documents had been not only thoroughly prepared but also thoroughly discussed not long before the presidium session at the Commission for Operational Management, which is headed by First Vice Premier Soskovets.

Discusses Merchant Fleet Program

PM1309131393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Diordiyenko report under "In the Government" rubric: "Reviving the Merchant Fleet"]

[Text] Yesterday the Russian Federation Council of Ministers Presidium discussed a program for the revival of Russia's merchant fleet. It was prepared in fulfillment of the president's edict of 3 December 1992.

What caused the question of reviving the fleet to be raised?

Following the disintegration of the Union and the division of common property the freight capacity of merchant ships and the output of the maritime ports "inherited" by Russia turned out to be insufficient.

"It so happened that the former USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet invested large sums in the development of the maritime ports of the Baltic republics, Ukraine, and Georgia," says Mikhail Yesin, deputy director for economic policy at the Russian Ministry of Transport's Marine Transport Department. "Those ports were provided with new ships. This is why, for example, the Latvian Steamship Company retained the refrigerator fleet, gas carriers, and tankers operating in this region. What is the result? Russia's maritime traffic requirement today is 175 million tonnes of freight per year, but the freight capacity of the fleet which belongs to us is 90 million tonnes. The requisite throughput of the ports is 260 million tonnes, but the current capacity ensures the transshipment of only 163 million tonnes. In addition, the average age of the transport vessels remaining with us is 17 years plus, whereas the worldwide average is 12 years. Of course, this technical base needs to be renewed, since in the next two years one-third of the fleet will have to be scrapped. The program elaborated by our ministry and coordinated with all interested departments is designed to correct this depressing situation. It is aimed at recreating a highly efficient, integrated system of maritime transport and meeting our country's coastal and foreign trade shipments. For this we need to renew all aspects of the fleet, to modernize and redesign the ports and transshipment complexes, and to build new ports. Further development of the maritime transport infrastructure is also needed—the ship-repair base, nuclear fleet servicing, communications, etc."

If the program, which runs through the year 2000, is implemented, it will, according to expert assessments, enable the volume of foreign trade shipments to be increased by 35 percent and that of coastal trade shipments by almost one-third; expenditure on chartering foreign vessels and on freight transit across the territory of CIS countries, transshipment, and storage could be reduced by billions of dollars, while the ports' throughput capacity is to double.

The program provides for the modernization and extension of the ports of Arkhangelsk, Murmansk, St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Novorossiysk, Tuapse, Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Vostochnyy, and Vanino. It is proposed to build new ports in the Novorossiysk region on the Black Sea, in the region of Luzhskaya Guba and Batareynaya Bukhta on the Baltic, and at the Olya settlement on the Caspian Sea.

The implementation of the program will require 62 billion rubles and $14.5 billion dollars at 1992 prices. Where are such funds to be found? Enterprises and joint-stock companies will provide almost 40 percent from their own resources; roughly the same amount will come from the budget and a "Revival" fund created especially for these purposes. It is proposed to get the remainder from interested ministries, departments, enterprises, and foreign investors; that is in rubles. In hard currency the correlation is somewhat different: 20 percent, 40 percent, and 40 percent.

"We understand that given the existing state of the economy we may not receive the planned volume of funds," Yesin says. "This is why the program will be adjusted and modified every rear. There is no certainty that we will manage to fully realize the rosy prospects we have described in the program, but we will aim to do so."

Government Panel Discusses Aeroflot, Metallurgy Sector

PM1309134193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 2

[Igor Petrov article under "In the Government" rubric: "Who Will Get Aeroflot. Council of Ministers Commission for Current Questions Has Examined Plan for Privatizing Aeroflot and Federal Program for Developing National Metallurgical Industry"]

[Text] The latest session of the government Commission for Current Questions began right away with the second point on the agenda. This was determined not so much by the importance of the problem—organizing the normal work of the "Aeroflot-Russian Air Lines" commercial production association in the new conditions—as by the complexity and wider implications of the actual situation that has developed in connection with the flotation of this complex.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has already written about this, therefore let me briefly remind readers of the essence of the conflict. Back in 1988 the Aeroflot monolith was arbitrarily split into 12 large structural subunits which were granted financial autonomy and subsequently obtained the status of legal persons. When the question of privatization came up, four organizations expressed their willingness to be floated together, and all the rest consented to do so in line with their own individual plans. After six months of various arguments and open squabbling they finally arrived at a consensus based on a

privatization option supported by labor collectives, Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property], and the Ministry of Transport. But at the last minute the Ministry of Transport made additional corrections which radically change the flotation blueprint and contradict the decision of the majority of conferences of Aeroflot labor collectives.

Typically, both the first deputy chairman of Goskomimushchestvo and the Russian transport minister seem to have been striving for and talking about exactly the same thing but at cross-purposes. The achievement of a common goal—the establishment in the country of a powerful integrated airline company operating on the foreign market as a single economic unit—was viewed by them in fundamentally different ways. The Ministry of Transport's view is that of a rigid association controlled from above and the preservation of the old structures for managing and organizing Aeroflot's work; the viewpoint supported by Goskomimushchestvo envisages a merger, albeit gradual, through the emergence of the common economic interest of the different economic structures of the former Aeroflot.

The position espoused by Chubays's department nevertheless prevailed during a sharp discussion that went on for almost two hours. It was stated clearly and unambiguously that no forced merger of legal persons during the privatization process would be permitted since this would contradict existing legislation.

In the assessment of government commission chairman Oleg Soskovets, the question that had been most carefully considered and well prepared was the draft of the "Federal Program for Reequipping and Developing the Russian Metallurgical Industry During the Period 1993-2000" submitted by Roskommetallurgiya [Russian Federation Committee for Metallurgy]. Following a graphic and detailed presentation of this program by Roskommetallurgiya Chairman S. Afonin, it seemed that the session participants were left in no doubt that this is a major, profound, and thoroughly well conceived document which could serve as a theoretical basis for elaborating practical measures designed to extricate the country's base sector from crisis. The Ministry of Finance representative, who is usually critical of this sort of program, even lifted his objections.

According to committee chairman Afonin, 200 ferrous metallurgy enterprises and 150 nonferrous metallurgy enterprises will be affected by the refit. Some 116 installations require priority assistance. It is intended to spend something like 6 trillion rubles and $9 billion at present prices on this project. However, the project's authors intend for the lion's share of the expenditure to be transferred to the sector itself.

At the same time, First Vice Premier Soskovets noted, clear answers have not yet been found to all the questions raised in the program. The most burning issue is still being ignored—the fate of 70 loss-making enterprises yielding 19 percent of production volume, in particular those which are fully responsible for the urban infrastructure, social base, and inhabitants of settlements. They are a major brake on the country's entire economy and are totally unviable in market conditions, but to shut them down without any alternative would immediately inflame the situation in the regions.

In a month's time, having taken account of all remarks and proposals, the "Federal Program for Reequipping and Developing the Metallurgical Industry" will be submitted for approval by the Supreme Soviet.

Yeltsin Appoints Head of Territorial Administration

LD1309163993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Boris Yeltsin appointed today Nikolay Pavlovich Medvedev head of administration of the Russian Federation president in charge of work with territories, presidential representatives, and contacts with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Gennadiy Vladimirovich Veretennikov, his predecessor in this post, is being appointed Russian Federation presidential representative in Moscow Oblast.

Government Appoints New Justice Ministry Officials

LD1309160493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1549 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Government has appointed Vladimir Kuzmin the Russian first deputy minister of justice and Yevgeniy Sidorenko to the post of deputy minister.

Anatoliy Kutukov has been appointed deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for Machine Building.

Government Officials' Activities Reported

PM1309155593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Conferences, Tours**

[passage omitted] Last night Russian Federation Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin and Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Sidorov arrived in Almaty. They will take part in the opening of the Festival of Russian Culture in Kazakhstan.

Russian Federation Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin was on a business trip to Nizhniy Novgorod, where the International Exhibition-Fair "Arms, Military Equipment, Conversion" is taking place.

Russian Federation Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov conversed with Fleet Admiral V. Chernavin, and also met A. Tsalko, senior secretary of the Commission for the Social Protection of Servicemen and Their Families.

Today Russian Federation Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, who is completing a working tour of the Siberian region, will continue his study of the socioeconomic problems of Novosibirsk Oblast, and also discuss with local leaders a range of questions connected with the possibilities of creating a Federation Council.

Yesterday Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha met with the leadership of Bashkortostan to discuss questions of the agro-industrial complex.

Yesterday Vice Premier Oleg Lobov met Gans Gissel [name as transliterated], president of the UN International Electrical Engineering [elektrotekhnicheskaya] Commission, and discussed the question of extending Russia's membership of this prestigious nongovernmental organization.

Yesterday afternoon Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays met V.A. Voyevodin, president of the All-Russia Fund for the Social Protection and Rehabilitation of Invalids.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is continuing his visit to the United States. Yesterday he visited the U.S Congress and addressed students of the University of National Defense and conversed with General George Butler, commander of the U.S. Strategic Forces [title as published].

Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev discussed with the Tajik leadership in Dushanbe questions of bilateral relations, and also the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. On the same day Kozyrev delivered a lecture at the opening of the Slavonic University in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek. [passage omitted]

Ecology

Aleksey Yablokov, adviser to the Russian Federation president, assessed the ecological situation in the country as "barely adequate."

Yablokov reported that the first session of the Security Council Interdepartmental Commission for Ecological Safety took place 7 September in the Kremlin under his chairmanship. On this commission are leaders of ministries and departments whose activity is connected with resolving problems of the country's ecological safety. In the adviser's words, the session discussed questions of forming a unified state policy in the ecology sphere and elaborating a mechanism to implement it.

Further on Activities

PM1309153993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts]**Meetings, Trips, Conferences**

[Passage omitted] In the afternoon, Government First Deputy Chairman Oleg Soskovets held a working conference on questions of the conversion of defense enterprises.

Sergey Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, is on a business trip in Novosibirsk.

Having returned the night before from Nizhniy Novgorod, where he viewed the combat equipment and weapons exhibition, Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin held a number of meetings with the leaders of Russian organizations and foreign firms. Questions of foreign economic cooperation were discussed.

Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, participated in a Russian Supreme Soviet sitting. Then the vice premier had a meeting with Roman Paldan, Slovak ambassador to the Russian Federation. In the afternoon, Yuriy Yarov chaired a working group session on the delivery of output and goods to areas of the Far North. [passage omitted]

Commissions

A discussion was held at the Ministry of the Economy concerning Ministry of Science proposals substantiating the advisability of creating a special commission under the Russian Federation Government that would not only be involved in problems of the protection of the environment but would also shape the prospects for Russia's development within the framework of the international community in the next millennium.

Collegia

Two documents important for Russians' health were discussed and largely approved at an enlarged collegium of the State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision. These were the drafts of the Russian Federation Law "On the Protection of Russian Federation Territories Against the Introduction and Dissemination of Particularly Dangerous Infectious Diseases, Animals, and Plants, As Well As Toxic Substances," and the (eponymous) Federal Targeted Program for 1994-1997. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, and the State Committee for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and the Elimination of Natural Disasters, along with the Russian Ministry of Security, the State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, and the Academy of Medical Sciences, and other bodies took part in the preparation of the documents, along with the sanitary department.

Filatov Discusses Federation Council

LD1309190793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By correspondent G. Fadeyeva, including recordings of comments made in interview by Sergey Filatov, head of presidential administration—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The political situation in Russia will be analyzed tomorrow at a session of the Presidential Council. As ITAR-TASS expects, the Presidential Council will discuss questions of political strategy over the September-October period. These include, presumably, the creation of the federation council, a debate on the means of a possible holding of early elections, and constitutional reform.

[Fadeyeva] In the federation council representatives of executive and legislative power will at last gather together.

[Filatov] This body is called upon, as it were, to consolidate all forces, because it has recently happened that each branch of power has been meeting separately, and, as it were, alienating themselves from one another. This does not contribute to reaching a normal solution to those problems that are common to the whole state.

[Fadeyeva] The idea of setting up a federation council, which was voiced by the president at the conference with the heads of republics in Petrozavodsk about a month and a half ago, at first did not provoke rejection from anyone. The regions working in it would be able to solve economic questions for themselves much more simply. However, following the letter circulated throughout the country by Yuriy Voronin, deputy parliamentary chairman, many local leaders changed their decision. The fact, apparently, was that the federation council was set up back in January 1990, as though everyone had forgotten that at that time Russia was a part of the Union and the federation treaty did not exist, for the implementation of which the current council is meeting. By the way, at the moment no one is saying that it should become the upper chamber of parliament.

[Filatov] There has perhaps been a certain amount of confusion here. I mean that according to the new draft constitution it is indeed an upper chamber, and particularly during the period of transition. If the constitution is adopted, then that's how it will be. As far as the present Federation Council is concerned, this is a consultative body.

[Fadeyeva] Its first session has been set for 18 September.

Radical Democrats Support Federation Council

LD1309161493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Russian Radical Democrats decided to support the council of the federation, proposed by President Boris Yeltsin, but said the new organisation should moslty serve as an instrument of early parliamentary elections.

The Public Committee of Democratic Organisations of Russia, uniting several dozens radical democratic parties and movements, debated the issue for three hours Monday and urged the president also to resume the work of the constitutional assembly which they believe may develop into the lower chamber of the new Russian parliament.

Igor Kharichev, a member of the "Democratic Choice" bloc and an employee of the presidential administration, said that the creation of the council of the federation is inevitable as it is impossible to announce early elections without the support of Russian regions.

He also disclosed that many people in the presidential entourage are "very cautious about the issue".

Kharichev said 141 out of 178 representatives of Russian regions and republics had already expressed their attitude to the council. "It is impossible to say that a majority supports the idea in the form expressed by the president, but a majority spoke in favour of the idea in principle," he stressed.

Status of Rutskoy-Seabeco Case Viewed

PM1309105393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1,2

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "The Case of the Swiss Account. All the Questions Remain"]

[Text] It has become known that a group of figures involved directly in shedding light on the circumstances of the Russian "Watergate"—the Rutskoy-Yakubovskiy-Birshteyn [as transliterated]-Seabeco-Agrokhim etc. affair—is flying to Canada at the end of this week.

It is for the moment unclear whether we are talking about staffers of the Interdepartmental Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption (IDC), which has collected and made public a series of potentially explosive materials, or about Moscow Prosecutor's Office staffers who have been busy studying and checking these materials, but it is interesting, in the first place, that the Canadian authorities delayed the issue of entry visas to the group, and that, second, the Canadian immigration service explained the visa delay by alluding to the fear that, having arrived in Canada, our people would ask for refugee status there.

We were informed about this by our colleagues—Canadian journalists—who also told us that, according to their information, Vice President Rutskoy and General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov met Tuesday morning with the Canadian ambassador in Moscow "to discuss the Yakubovskiy affair." The Canadian Embassy officially refuted this information.

Generally speaking, a paradoxical situation is emerging: The more that becomes known about Russia's "Watergate," the more uncertainties and questions emerge. The

majority of doubts concern, as before, the authenticity and accuracy of those documents which the IDC disclosed and were published in our newspaper, among others. I should remind you that we are talking about a sworn affadavit given to a certain Mr. Jackson who in a notary's office in Toronto, Ontario Province, witnessed a copy of a trust agreement, which had been supposedly concluded between Rutskoy and Keret, executive director of the Seabeco corporation.

Our colleagues from the Toronto GLOBE AND MAIL reported in reply to an inquiry we sent them in connection with the notary public and the affidavit he issued: "Jeffrey Chapnick, the notary public you are interested in, states: 'I'm just a simple notary public; I didn't know this Rutskoy or any German (Keret, who is now deceased, was as far as we know a German citizen—A. Sh.), or Jackson. I don't ask questions when people bring me anything.'"

You can interpret Chapnick's statements in two ways: Either he does not care in principle which papers he puts his official name to and confirms, even when he countersigns and adds his seal; or no person called Jackson approached him with a request to corroborate the authenticity of the copy of the trust agreement in his capacity as a notary and that someone else was passing himself off as Jackson.

In the meantime, our own correspondent in Paris, Yuriy Kovalenko, attempted to clarify to what extent French banks are prepared to disclose information on their clients. "As specialists in banking procedure have noted," our correspondent reported, "a bank may only disclose its documents if the Russian Government officially requests the French Government to communicate the necessary information, and the latter considers it necessary and possible to accommodate us and oblige the bank to provide such information."

According to some information which the editorial office has received, Banque Indosuez, in which Birshteyn's Seabeco corporation held its account, is "carefully studying all those documents which have already been published."

It is only natural to suppose that if there is such a strict procedure in France for providing official—I emphasize, official—bodies information on clients and their accounts, it must clearly be no less lax, and probably significantly stricter, in Swiss banks. Again this gives grounds for our doubts about the authenticity of one of the key documents which Andrey Makarov's commission has made public—the certificate from a Swiss bank from which it is clear that some $3.5 million was to have been transferred to the account of a company supposedly owned by Rutskoy. The certificate was drawn up in such a way that anyone coming in off the street could, if they wanted, consult it.

It has become clear from sources closely associated with the process of collecting materials on the Rutskoy affair—unfortunately, we cannot say precisely what these sources are; such was the condition made which we could not help but accept—that they themselves also have certain doubts about the documents collected, or, to be more precise, they see that in certain of the documents there are inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and so on. But while admitting this indirectly, these sources—who, it must be said, are by no means ecstatic that IZVESTIYA has shared with its readers some of its doubts concerning the materials made public—are, however, absolutely certain in the first place that these documents are genuine and that, second, it is up to the law-enforcement agencies to investigate and study them carefully and get to the bottom of the inaccuracies.

On the other hand, several of these documents which the Makarov commission has collected and which IZVESTIYA has not as yet published raise very serious questions for those individuals and organizations which figure in these materials. For example, we were shown two payment orders with the same basic details (both marked document no. 223), the same dates (15 May 1992), and for one and the same sum—36 million rubles, but with clearly inconsistent explanations of why this sum is "running about" between a subsidiary enterprise of Seabeco and Agrokhim.

Our sources avoided many of the questions we put to them, though they certainly do possess information on these questions. In particular it remains a mystery from whom and through which channels these materials were obtained. When precisely, under what circumstances, and where did Benjamin Keret, Rutskoy's "cosignatory," die?

Naturally, the answers to some questions are quite simply unknown to our sources, but they believe that answers will be obtained in the course of the investigation, when, for example, the "original documents will be unearthed." Then, for example, it will likely become clear who actually sanctioned the appropriation of the foreign currency which, after presumably passing through Agrokhim, ended up in Seabeco's Swiss or French bank accounts.

Commentary Scores Yeltsin's 'Democratic Tyranny'

PM1409095793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1-2

["Commentary" by Political Scientist Boris Pugachev: "Will Yeltsin Embark on a Coup d'Etat"]

[Text] It seems that the "artillery preparation" announced by Yeltsin is ending. The edict on Rutskoy and the subsequent direct reliance "on force" when the Main Bodyguard Directorate decides whether constitutionally elected officials "may or may not be allowed" to enter their residence are extreme measures in that "artillery preparation." The law is being flouted for all to see. The "parties" are silent, the "democratic" press is silent, the "public" is silent. The authorities' scheme is simple—it is to crush and suppress the moral resistance to

this high-handedness. And it seems to be working. Recently respected lawyers and political scientists are losing face as they nervously seek from the TV screens to prove to themselves the "legality" of the president's latest actions and promise us unprecedented freedoms from the new "democratic" Constitution. The circle is closing—the liberals, having risen up against communist tyranny, are ready to justify "democratic" tyranny.

The public is preparing for the president's new "democratic moves." IZVESTIYA (10 September 1993) reported that the president is "inclining" toward radical new measures. "This means the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet and the immediate appointment of the date of the next elections. In this regard the president's actions will be not only resolute but also quick." Forgive me for pointing this out but such actions also constitute a coup d'etat. Of course there will always be obsequious and dishonorable people who try to call such steps the very pinnacle of legality, democratic expediency, and the implementation of the "will of the people." What do I mean, there will always be such people! There already are today.

The extent of the "constitutionality" and "legality" of such moves is elementary and clear to all. But at this point I would like to point out the political consequences of such decisions. I would like to point them out before it is too late, before irreparable harm is done, and before a handful of "smart Alecks" ensconced in the Kremlin urge the president to take a desperate, tragic, and irrevocable step.

Is there a dyarchy in the country which is destroying the state? Undoubtedly there is. But unless we understand the causes of it we will not find the right solution. And unless we find them we will push the country into the abyss, into chaos, and destroy the fragile peace in our national home. The president and the forces who serve him are persistently trying to din a false view into the mass consciousness. There is a struggle underway, it is claimed, between the "democratic" president and the "communist," "conservative" parliament," between the "good" Yeltsin and the "bad" Khasbulatov.

This is not so. The struggle that is being waged is over the political course in the country and to prevent Russia's collapse, to which the present state policy is inevitably leading it. Incidentally, it is a policy for which the president and parliament bear equal responsibility. Khasbulatov, Rutskoy, and the majority of parliamentarians are former Yeltsin supporters. What is the reason for their opposition to the president's present course? Just one thing—the inner conviction that the president's present social and economic policy is disastrous because pseudoreforms are being passed off as reforms. You cannot simply brush this assessment aside by saying that these people are expressing the position of the National Salvation Front. Sharp and principled criticism of the present economic course has been expressed by leading academics—Bogomolov, Petrakov, Shmelev, Yavlinskiy, Yaremenko, and Yasin. Is that not enough? The list could go on. What, are they all members of the National Salvation Front, too?

No, the situation here is more complex. The "reforms" which are bringing about the collapse of production, the impoverishment of the people, and the domination of the criminal mafia nouveaux riches are antireforms. This course will inevitably be changed. Does the very fierce struggle in the government itself between the Lobov "group" and the Chubays-Fedorov "group" not provide evidence of that? Do not oversimplify matters, gentlemen, because the arguments designed for the intellectually challenged will then rebound on you.

In the context of the president's forthcoming "resolute" measures I am reminded of his recent visit to the Taman and Kantemir Divisions and the fact that in the near future vacancies in the Security Ministry and Interior Ministry will be filled with "people loyal to the president's course." How is this to be viewed in the light of the anticipated "dissolution" of the Supreme Soviet? The ambiguity of the juxtaposition of "loyalty" to the president and "loyalty" to the law is obvious. Did Gorbachev not make a mistake when he gambled on personal loyalty?

In this connection all the arguments that the bridges leading to mutual understanding between the different political forces and different branches of power have been burned are artificial, not to say calculated. Their aim is to kindle the flames of enmity and embroil opposing political forces in a battle that will destroy them all. The intention is simple—it is to wield power themselves or else to remain near power. Any acts of violence against any of the branches of power today will lead to a social explosion with unpredictable consequences. Do not play with fire! The State Committee for the State of Emergency had enormous military power and lost—because that force was on the side of the law and the moral choice of the people.

The president may count on one force alone—the force of the law. Otherwise he will lose his significance as a legitimate president.

One final point. The people's trust. The people's trust in any form earned either in elections or in referenda does not grant the right to take "resolute" unconstitutional steps. Do not manipulate the people's will and trust. The referendum mandate was given to all the powers to carry out constitutional actions which respect the law.

There is one way out today. It is not "resolute actions" leading to coups d'etat but a calm and patient dialogue. It is not "revolutionary" vacillations but genuine reforms which unite everyone.

'Renewal' Union Warns of 'Specter of Totalitarianism'

PM1409094593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Boris Slavin: "Trial of Strength"]

[Text] The "Renewal" union leadership held a press conference 10 September. It stated that amid the wrangling among political leaders and the reports about Boris Yeltsin's illness it is "impossible to see who is actually running the country and who is responsible for the critical state of the economy."

It was stressed that a criminocracy was "being established" against the background of falling production and rising prices. According to V. Mironenko, cochairman of the "Renewal" union board and former leader of the Communist Youth League, the "specter of totalitarianism is abroad in Russia." In these conditions industrialists, who are setting up their own party, will fight for the renewal of political power and the nomination of their own parliamentary deputies. The council of the all-Russia "Renewal" union nominated Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, first deputy chief of the Moscow Oblast Administration, as a candidate Russian Federation people's deputy. He will compete against workers' and communists' representatives Viktor Anpilov and Viktor Ilyukhin. Soon we will be able to observe representatives of the workers and representatives of the new bourgeoisie competing at elections. It should be noted that the radical democrats have very little chance.

'Russia's Choice' Bloc Urges Readiness for Early Elections

PM1309162593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 1

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "'Russia's Choice' Prepares for Elections"]

[Text] The best solution to the current political crisis would be the adoption of a new constitution. Juridically speaking, this is the shortest and "purest" path, primarily because there are decisions by all the organs of state power on the adoption of the new Fundamental Law, including the Declaration on Sovereignty and the decrees of the congresses of people's deputies. And the refusal to adopt a new Constitution is nothing less than a blatant violation by the Congress of its own decisions. This viewpoint was expressed by Prof. Vladimir Tumanov at a Moscow seminar held by the "Russia's Choice" political bloc on the legal problems of holding early parliamentary elections. However, lawyers participating in the seminar noted that the existing Constitution, owing to its contradictions and juridical "vacuities," gives no legal grounds today for holding early elections. The principle of legality in this situation enters into contradiction with the principle of legitimacy—the justifiability and validity of the authorities in the eyes of society.

In this sense the constitutional initiatives of a president who received a vote of confidence at the referendum are far more valid than the actions of the legislative power, which effectively lost its legitimacy following the collapse of the USSR, in which Russia was a union republic, and following the April referendum, at which 66 percent of the active population expressed themselves in favor of early elections of people's deputies. Prof. Tumanov believes in particular that to disregard the results of the referendum is a great mistake, and proposes that early elections could be held if not only democratic public opinion but also the competent state organs—the Constitutional Court, the Russian Supreme Court, the future Federation Council, and some of the deputy corps—speak their mind on this problem.

Roman Livshits, chief scientific assistant at the Russian Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, who believes that there are no juridical ways of achieving the task, sees the way out of the deadlock in a possible presidential initiative on simultaneous early elections. Boris Yeltsin's high moral position, the lawyer believes, could influence the decision of the Congress of People's Deputies, or at least in the event of a negative decision, once and for all, discredit the deputy corps in the eyes of the electorate. A longer route, and a laborious one, is to submit questions to the Constitutional Court on the unconstitutional actions of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet. In the opinion of several seminar participants, the solution could be found in a complex combination of legislative and administrative measures and public pressure.

Vyacheslav Skvortsov, director of the Zlatoustovka Metal Structures Plant, moved the conversation into the practical plane by calling on activists of the "Russia's Choice" bloc, in preparing for the elections, to draw on the support of enterprise directors enjoying authority among the population. Up to 50 percent of enterprise leaders in Chelyabinsk Oblast, according to Skvortsov's data, may support the economic and political program of Yegor Gaydar, the leader of the "Russia's Choice" bloc, who this week visited several Russian regions, including Chelyabinsk. The creation of regional organizations of "Russia's Choice" and the Association of Private Enterprises and Enterprises Undergoing Privatization headed by Ye. Gaydar is preparing conditions for the smooth running of the democrats' election campaign. No one can say when it will begin, but it is necessary to prepare for it today.

Democratic Choice Bloc Voices Concern to Yeltsin

LD1309141093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 13 ITAR-TASS—The council of representatives of the Democratic Choice Bloc, which brings together many democratic parties and public organisations of the Russian Federation, said in an open

letter to Boris Yeltsin today that the bloc was seriously concerned over the development of the political process in the country.

While the National Salvation Front and other extremist organisations, which rally together with the conservative part of the parliament to slow down and bloc political and economic reforms needed by society, "the executive power displays impermissible sluggishness in the development of the constitutional process and fulfilment of the mandate of the April referendum, during which the people expressed unequivocal support for the president and reforms carried out under his guidance and practically refused confidence in the Supreme Soviet, the message said.

"In order to step up the constitutional process, it is necessary to resume immediately the work of the constitutional assembly, whose historic obligation to the people and the country is the working out of provisional constitutional act for the transitional period and the drafting of a law on elections," the bloc said in the letter.

"Although the election campaign has in fact begun, with practically all main political forces of society stepping up their activity, it is being conducted without a due legal framework. In this way, the possibility of holding elections this autumn has been practically disrupted, which calls into question the possibility of holding elections to the new parliament even in the spring of 1994. This is fraught with the development of a situation of anarchy in the country, which can only play into the hand of the revenge- seeking politicians, irresponsible elements and extremists of all shades."

"We regard as a positive sign the president's efforts to create the federation council and the decisions made at Petrozavodsk which can make an important contribution to stabilisation of the overall situation and the development of the constitutional process. The creation of the federation council is supported by us unconditionally. Along with this we believe that it would be wrong to concentrate solely on the formation and activity of the federation council and thus delay the resumption of work of the constitutional assembly. This is not only a tactical but a strategic error. The cost of this error can prove too great not only to the democratic forces which back the executive power but, eventually, to the power itself.

Zorkin Banned From Dacha Due to Water Contamination

PM1309110793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Olga Gerasimenko: "Has Zorkin Been Driven Out by Bacillus?"]

[Text] We were told in V. Zorkin's immediate entourage that the main (and only) argument when expelling him from his official residence in Ogarevo was the medical conclusion submitted to him regarding the alleged discovery back on 25 May this year of the bacillus pyocyanaeus in the water supply of the entire system. Let us recall that the chairman of the Constitutional Court occupies only one part of the complex. It also includes the official residence of the Russian Federation president and a number of top officials.

It has emerged that V. Zorkin has still not managed to get through to the president on the telephone. On the other hand he has managed to get in touch with his administration's leader, S. Filatov, who assured him that his service is not involved in this embarrassing situation.

But at 1800 on 9 September the Constitutional Court chairman was informed of the temporary repeal of the directive until Monday. It remains to be added that the Constitutional Court chairman received his "corner" in Ogarevo, intended not only for working conferences with Constitutional Court members and the reception of foreign guests but also for the permanent residence of V. Zorkin and his family, as his official residence for the entire duration of his powers.

V. Zorkin told close associates to him yesterday that nonetheless he is prepared to live even on a divan in the court building.

Security Council Aide on 'Nonprofessionalism'

PM1309142193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Article by Vladimir Misyuchenko, Russian Federation Security Council consultant, under "Polemic" rubric: "Nonprofessionalism Is Dangerous"]

[Text] The article "Locking the Barn Door after the Horse Has Bolted" (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 August) attracted my attention mainly because of the opinions on the Security Council voiced by Aleksandr Kotenev, chairman of the Russian Council of Afghanistan Veterans. He says, for example, that he wants this body—in order to avoid the usurpation of power—"to be under the ever-watchful eye of the law and its activity 'contained' within the framework of the Constitution." This is surprising! After all, no one has repealed the Law "On Security."

Perhaps Kotenev is unaware that the Security Council is the sole structure within the President's administration whose activity is regulated by the law. But he cannot fail to be aware that the president is the head of the Security Council. That duty is vested in him by the Constitution.

The chairman of the Russian Council of Afghanistan Veterans says nothing about the fact that the Security Council is a consultative, rather than "collegial," body which prepares draft decisions for the president on any instruction, to which the president is entitled under the Constitution and the Constitutionally guided Law "On Security."

Kotenev meanwhile decides to propose a "new model" of the Security Council. Here he fails to notice (or fails to understand) that his model turns the Security Council precisely into a kind of "superdepartment," the "nerve center" of the power structures. It was precisely such a model that Yu.V. Skokov opposed, and precisely it—within the framework of the State Council—that G.E. Burbulis fervently defended.

And as for "the close collaboration and parity of professionals and nonprofessionals" to protect the state against Bonapartism, in matters of state security there can be no room for outsiders.

Yes, you have to know everyone's opinion and it is essential to understand the logic of citizens campaigning for the security of the state—their own security. The apparatchiks' professionalism consists in their listening to and understanding this, but when you are drawing up the drafts of decisions to be sealed by the signature of the president there can be no "parity" with nonprofessionals.

Kotenev is not the first person to try to push through the idea of creating a kind of public watchdog committee to oversee the Security Council's work. It is a rich, albeit nonprofessional idea, and nonprofessionalism is dangerous.

Yeltsin Adopts Resolutions To Support Scientists

LD1309155393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has adopted a number of important resolutions aimed at giving support to Russia's science, in particular, to merited scientists and their young talented colleagues," [no opening quotation marks as received] Yuriy Osipov, president of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), told journalists on Monday [13 September] upon completion of 1.5-hour meeting with the Russian president in the Kremlin today.

Osipov said that the president's decrees to this effect will be made public in the next few days. According to Osipov, the meeting focused on the role played by Russian science in this country and the whole world. He said that the Russian president agreed that "Russia's science has always been outstanding and it remains so to the present day despite considerable difficulties Russia is going through."

Osipov noted that the salaries of workers of science were considerably lower than in other branches of industry, let alone the business sphere. Funds for scientific research are either not allocated at all or very limited. "Such situation is inadmissible in a country claiming the status of a great power," Osipov noted.

Dwelling on strikes staged by scientists, Osipov reminded of the fact that the presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences supports their demands, adding that these people have the right to the life worthy of man. "It is regrettable that apart from the shortage of funds the situation is aggravated by other factors, in particular, by the Russian Finance Ministry delaying wages," Osipov said.

Asked whether political problems have been discussed at today's meeting, Osipov declared: "I am strongly against the RAS being involved in politics."

Gorbachev To 'Return to Politics' if 'Russia Needs' Him

LD1309132693 London BBC Television Network in English 0715 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Interview with former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev by David Frost on 11 September in Moscow; Gorbachev speaks in Russian with superimposed English translation; from the "Breakfast with Frost" program—recorded]

[Text] [Frost] Would you say today: I am a communist, or I was a communist?

[Gorbachev] I was a communist. I was a member of the Communist Party. I was attracted to the doctrine providing the perspective for the future. There were ideas there, there were goals there that I found attractive, such as equality and freedom. The problem is that it was, of course, done in a demagogic way. But what I think today is that for all of us, for myself and others it's very important to understand that the alternative for the future, for the 21st century, is not an alternative between communism, socialism, or capitalism. I think we will have to think in terms of a new civilization. We have to move towards a society that would guarantee dynamic development, that would provide an incentive for dynamic development. But in addition to providing that liberal incentive there should also be some social regulators, some social factors that would also work to guarantee a certain role for the state in the interests of the whole society. We need a new civilization.

[Frost] Do you think then, in terms of communism, that communism will survive in China or Vietnam or Cuba, or not?

[Gorbachev] Well no, I think that all of us really are moving towards a different society. You too are moving toward a society and a civilization that is different from what we have today. I think it is really interesting that when I was talking to my counterparts—such as the U.S. President and European leaders—when we became quite frank and confident in our discussion, when we had an atmosphere in which we could talk quite frankly to each other, I said: If you think that we are the only ones who have to change you are making a mistake. And I think that at the time Western leaders turned a deaf ear to my warning, but now they are paying the price because they were not ready. When the world was divided, when the discipline of alliances was holding things together it

overshadowed progress on the domestic front, it superceded domestic development, but now when when we have removed the Berlin wall and the Iron Curtain we all open up, and every country and every society tries to sort things out, to understand what has happened.

[Frost] And talking about those meetings with your counterparts and so on, from the meeting in December 1984 in London your relationship with Mrs. Thatcher was always a very strong one, wasn't it? And she said that you were a man she could do business with and helped to influence Reagan in the same way. That was always a very strong relationship, wasn't it?

[Gorbachev] Yes indeed, yes indeed, it was not too easy to begin with, and when we first talked at Chequers [prime minister's country residence] we really had quite a discussion. But I felt from the start that I could deal with her. I regarded her as an outstanding woman, and a major political force. I was far from sharing all her opinions, but her concerns and ability to address very serious issues—this I think was something I had to respect. Many sharp words were exchanged. Indeed, I could never agree with the way she felt about nuclear weapons—she was attracted to nuclear weapons. And I said I could not accept her position. I believed we could not sit quiet on this nuclear tinderbox. I said that stability and future security is not linked with keeping nuclear weapons, but with the abolition eventually of those terrible weapons.

[Frost] Were you alike in character do you think?

[Gorbachev] Well, that is difficult to answer. I think it is up to you to try to answer this, but she was an interesting partner—and an interesting human being.

[Frost] One thing you shared, of course, which was rather extraordinary was that you were both more respected all around the world than in your own countries. Always your popularity around the world was greater than here in the Soviet Union, and her popularity around the world was greater than in the UK. Do you think that is true?

[Gorbachev] If you are speaking of the fact that the world has appreciated very positively and still appreciates positively what Mikhail Gorbachev did, what I did to help change the world, well I indeed was involved in ending the cold war, in ending the arms race. That is true and what people find as important. And that is why I have tried to reform the country in a very cautious and evolutionary way. I was against great leaps forward and cowboy attacks, particularly so far as property ownership and reform of the state are concerned. There was a very critical point when there was much criticism of Gorbachev throughout the country, but today more and more people want me to speak out, more and more people ask me: What do you think? And they are asking those questions with respect. Even those who disagree with me want to know my opinions about what we should do now. So this means that people—after a certain emotional phase, after they have seen that those who have succeeded Gorbachev have brought the country to a certain situation—people are thinking faster now, and say: Well, lets remember, what did Gorbachev say?

[Frost] If a call came to you to return to politics would you accept?

[Gorbachev] Firstly, I think you worded the question very well. And put like that I say: Yes I will, but I will never elbow my way back into politics. I will never use the kind of methods that are being used today, for example, by various members of the Federal Government who are throwing mud at each other. I think that perhaps all of them have their finger in the pie, but it is really unfortunate to see all those mutual accusations and mud-slinging. My press secretary has said it reminds him of watching a game of ping-pong, but they are not playing with a ping-pong ball, but with mud, they are slinging mud at each other. I like this metaphor. So to return to your question: if the people think they need me, then I will answer yes, if Russia needs me, yes.

[Frost] Right! Well, listen, you are vigorous, you are fit, you are healthy, you look young, so the call might well come.

[Gorbachev] We will have to wait and see. There are many things that I am doing now, and I am very pleased that I am so busy. I am now working for example on organizing the global ecological movement— International Green Cross. I would be happy, of course, if I were to contribute to the development of this environmental consciousness of our planet. Compared to that, things look very small. The question of who or who is not president is of secondary importance. Also, the foundation that I have established now stands firmly on its feet, and it is quite mature, and is ready to contribute to the intellectual debate of the problems of moving toward the new civilization. And this is a very interesting project that fascinates me.

[Frost] Thank you very much indeed.

[Gorbachev] Thank you. I hope we can do this again.

[Frost] Agreed.

Media Issues

Ostankino Official Denies Rumors of 'Mass Exodus'

MK1409103493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 2

[Kris Khokli report under the "Press" rubric: "There Will Be No Mass Exodus From 'Ostankino.' Three Fat Men Have Entered the Mass Media Market"]

[Text] The rumors about a massive departure from Ostankino by ITA-Novosti staffers have no grounds whatsoever. This was announced by Kirill Ignatyev, first deputy of the Ostankino State Television and Radio

Company, in an interview with a POSTFACTUM correspondent. In K. Ignatyev's opinion, no more than 20 people, and not 140 or 150 as predicted by some media outlets, will join the television company being created by Igor Malashenko (former deputy to Ostankino's former chairman, Yegor Yakovlev). According to K. Ignatyev, his latest meeting (7 September) with ITA-Novosti employees showed that many of them are interested in the results of the economic transformations that Ostankino's new administration has begun. As a result of these transformations, the company's revenues from off-budget activity have increased, and with these funds company employees' salaries were raised 80 percent, with approximately $1 million allocated for the purchase of apartments and $1 billion to upgrade television facilities. In addition, Kirill Ignatyev believes that many employees are taking an interest in the prospects of the company's corporatization.

Nonetheless, on Sunday's "Itogi" program, anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev said that many prominent television reporters will leave for the newly created independent television company, NTV. NTV will be owned by one financial group and two well known banks. According to Y. Kiselev, in October viewers will see a new news program "Segodnya," which bears the same name as the newspaper owned by these three fat men of the Russian mass media market. This is the first step in creating an information empire in Russia patterned on the empire of the Australian-U.S. tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

Board Expected To Express No Confidence in Bragin

MK1409073593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Ostankino' Company Vs. Bragin"]

[Text] According to reports from very knowledgeable sources, a mutiny will break out today in "Ostankino."

For the first time in the television and radio company's history, its board of directors will convene (on its own initiative!). It is expected that the board will consider expressing no-confidence in the top management. Bragin and his personnel policy appear to have exhausted the professionals' patience.

Commentary Questions Finances, Motives of NTV

LD1309154893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1110 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Commentary by anchorman Oleg Vorobyev—from the "Radio Parliament" program]

[Text] I would like to draw attention to an episode from yesterday's Itogi television program. Anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev confirmed recent rumors about the forthcoming departure from television of Kiselev himself and also Mitkova, Osokin, and certain other journalists who have been working on the Ostankino Television Company's news programs. However, they will not all disappear from the television screen. They will simply be working for the private and independent television company NTV.

Information about the setting up of this new commercial television structure has already leaked out through the press. Last week, Yegor Yakovlev's publication OBSHCHAYA GAZETA published an interview with Igor Malashenko, general director of NTV, former First Deputy Head of Ostankino Yegor Yakovlev, and then Vyacheslav Bragin, who replaced Yakovlev. Malashenko left Ostankino six months ago after voicing his disagreement with the policy of the television company's leadership. He worked as first deputy once again for Yegor Yakovlev in the latter's RTV-press structure and now, Igor Malashenko has appeared again this time in the capacity of head of something private and independent.

To a question as to where the funds had come from, Malashenko replied thus in the interview for the OBSHCHAYA GAZETA: Initially it was a case of one investor—the Most [Bridge] group, but just the other day a contract was signed on the setting up of a banking consortium which includes both the Most group and two other banks—Natsionalnyy Kredit and the Stolichnyy. They are granting the NTV company credit for purchasing equipment, leasing the necessary technical equipment, and acquiring feature films, said Igor Malashenko.

I attempted to find out what sort of courageous banks these were but, unfortunately, I was unable to find any information about these banks in directories of commercial organizations and firms. But I have noted that their advertisements periodically appear in the press. If they really are undertaking to set up a television company, that means they do have funds, and they must be quite considerable. After all, many billions are needed.

Irina Petrovskaya, author of the interview with Malashenko in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA, pointed out that only recently none other than Vladimir Shumeyko informed the public that the fourth television channel would most likely be handed over to the above-mentioned Most group and also to several banks. Igor Malashenko had this to say about Shumeyko's statement: The channel cannot be handed over to banks by definition. This is a case of the handover of the channel to the commercial television company NTV. End of quote.

But let me remind you that NTV is being set up on the basis of these banks' money. So where's the difference? As for the questions of Shumeyko's role and why it is advantageous for the government, whose vice premier has made such a statement, to hand over the fourth state television channel, in which colossal sums from the state budget—taxpayers' money—have been invested, to hand this over into the hands of this private television company remains to be clarified [sentence as heard].

However, would it not have been more correct to propose that these banks set up their own broadcasting system on new channels and purchase and have satellites launched and so on? But Malashenko believes, and I quote: A competent decision needs to be taken on the fourth channel. After all, we are professionals and we are very well aware of everyone's worth. It is true that the team that is gathering round NTV is the most professional news team in the country, and the government knows this. Well, one senses from the words of the commercial television company's boss that he is confident that the channel will indeed be handed over to him.

News programs will form the basis of our channel, Igor Malashenko reported in the same interview. In other words, NTV will be working intensively on shaping public opinion. But then the 38 year-old Igor Malashenko knows how this is done. Before coming to television, he worked at the Academy of Sciences' Institute of the United States and Canada and worked for a period in the United States. Incidentally, is not America mentioned rather a lot when we speak about our journalists? Then Malashenko worked at the CPSU Central Committee and was one of the authors and developers of the notorious idea of the new thinking.

Let us not forget that Yevgeniy Kiselev's team will be working with him. Educated as a historian specializing in eastern affairs, Kiselev has much experience in conducting a propaganda war on the air. Before coming to television he worked in central radio broadcasting to foreign countries and even before that managed to work as a teacher at the USSR KGB's higher school.

On the issue of whose interests the new television company will be defending, and how independent it will be, Igor Malashenko said the following: The investors do not interfere in the company's personnel and editorial policy. Interference and attempts to bring pressure to bear in this sphere are ruled out from the start, but I am very strictly dependent on the investors in the sphere of financial decision-making. On this, control by them is indeed inevitable. End of quote.

I would like to ask, is not the financial sphere the most effective method of controlling and bringing pressure to bear, if this television company begins doing something, or doing it in some way, that is not to the investors advantage? Remember the saying: He who pays the piper calls the tune. The question is just this: Who is going to pay?

Parliament's Media Policy Assailed

PM1309132193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 1

[Tatyana Akkuratova report: "All Power Over Freedom of Speech—to Parliament?!"]

[Text] Participants in a news conference organized by the "Ostankino" State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company described the draft law "On Television and Radio Broadcasting in the Russian Federation" prepared by the Supreme Soviet's Mass Media Committee as a continuation of the all-out offensive against the "fourth estate." The news conference was devoted to problems of relations between the electronic mass media and the representative organs of power.

Kirill Ignatyev, the company's first deputy chairman assessed the draft law as a "fantastic, tragicomic, illiterate document." In his words, the draft law is shot through with a zeal for the denial of free speech and creates an unprecedented system of censorship and control over television. In accordance with this document journalists working in state television and radio broadcasting are effectively forbidden to express their own opinions, which dooms the majority of current affairs programs to oblivion.

Aleksey Simonov, chairman of the Glasnost Defense Fund Board, made public a draft Supreme Soviet decree received by the fund which, in his words, proposes to introduce a parliamentary committee for the mass media. "I am making this public in the hope that this document will not be confirmed by official Supreme Soviet decisions, that the Supreme Soviet has sufficient wisdom not to adopt it," Simonov said. According to this draft, it is proposed to reregister all periodical press publications, and, more importantly, to establish that the Supreme Soviet will be a cofounder, along with others, of mass media sources receiving subsidies from the state budget. So, all power over the press—to parliament?!

'Ideologization' of Mass Media Decried

PM1009130393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 93 First Edition p 5

[Article by Professor Anatoliy Krasikov: "A Threat to Freedom of Information Is a Threat to Freedom in General"]

[Excerpts] The forces of totalitarian revanche and those who—deliberately or unwittingly—supported them have dealt a serious blow to Russia's still frail democracy: On 3 September the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet adopted a decision to make amendments to the existing Law on the Mass Media.

The first version of the amendments, enshrined in the form of a new law, was rejected by President B.N. Yeltsin in a letter which he sent to the Supreme Soviet 6 August. According to the current Soviet Constitution, however, the president's veto can be overturned by the same simple majority of deputies' votes by which the initial text was approved. This indeed occurred 3 September.

Deputies ignored the president's main warning that the new law's coming into force would lead to a substantial restriction of the constitutional right to freely receive and disseminate information, and would virtually recreate the institution of preliminary censorship. The heirs of the old Agitprop [Agitation and Propaganda Department] in the ranks of the "soviet party"—in effect the successors of the communist party-state complex—made

a cunning move. They decided to camouflage the new political censorship as "monitoring of the support for freedom of speech" and, at the same time—again following Agitprop's example—to establish their own control over the selection and appointment of the leaders of television and radio broadcasting. President Yeltsin has already announced that he will not be party to this operation and will not send his representatives to the "monitoring council" (subsequently renamed "the Federal Council for the Support of Free Speech") planned by the parliamentary censors. [passage omitted]

The dismantlement of totalitarianism in Russia has helped the mass media to at last raise themselves to modern international standards. Uncensored compilers and distributors of news have emerged. Pluralism of opinion has ousted the former official unanimity. Critical remarks about any official, not excluding the head of state, are accepted as something entirely normal.

With the adoption of the Law on the Mass Media Russia for the first time expressed readiness to adhere in reality, and not just in words, to the tenets of the Declaration of Human Rights, including this document's Article 19 which speaks of the right to freedom of convictions and to the free expression of the same, including the freedom to seek, receive, and disseminate information and ideas by any means and irrespective of state borders. Today there are around 14,000 mass media under various forms of ownership in our country, including just over 1,500 television and radio stations and around 400 news agencies. Some of them gravitate toward the radical democratic and liberal democratic sectors of social thinking, others toward the center, others still toward the left-wing and ultra-leftist streams. Finally, there are publications for which a complete mixture of opinions is characteristic. Plus the friendly backslapping of eminent politicians and endless mischief-making on any pretext.

Is this dangerous for the future of Russian journalism in the context of the overall freedom of the press? I think not. The infantile disease of eccentricity will pass of its own accord, and eventually respectable publications, informing the public on an up-to-the-minute basis about the most important events of life in the country and abroad and commenting on the news from various political standpoints, including by means of comparing different points of view, will start to set the tone in our country, like everywhere else.

The danger lies elsewhere—in the Supreme Soviet's blatant support for press organs which—sometimes in veiled form, but at times completely openly—agitate for a return to totalitarianism. The latest initiative of the continuers of the work of the CPSU's Propaganda Department is the urgent recommendation of the Supreme Soviet Committee for the Mass Media that the Ministry of Press and Information support with Russian taxpayers' money not only the communist SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, which has already received state subsidies, but also DEN, which goes even further in its extremism. The Committee for the Mass Media has apparently forgotten that no one is permitted to use state media for blatantly propagandist goals to suit his own political sympathies. As for the officials whose functions and jurisdiction include professional monitoring of the content of information programs, in line with the presidential edict "On Guarantees of Informational Stability and the Requirements for Television and Radio Broadcasting" of 20 March 1993, they are obliged, while engaging in their professional activity, not simply to forget their personal prejudices, but also to resign their membership of the leading organs of political parties and movements.

Alas, some of our deputies, opponents of reforms as a rule, taking fright at the fall in their esteem after the long hours of transmissions from parliament's hall of sessions, have decided to correct matters through establishing direct political control over broadcasts on a given theme. This produced the notorious "Parliamentary Hour" on Russian Television—a phenomenon which, in its own way, is unique. "Anchormen" especially selected by the speaker's team, diligently looking into their employer's eyes and servilely agreeing with his every word, have ousted independent professional newsmen from the screen—employees of the Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation. Now, in the opinion of the most fervent members of the "soviet party," their political control over television and radio broadcasting is to be extended across all the airwaves.

Do we allow in principle an analysis of the output of the state mass media with the aim of uncovering possible attempts to exploit them in the interests of certain political forces to the detriment of others, or, say, from the point of view of their impact on public morale? Of course we do. It is no accident that the president proposed to set up watchdog councils vested with powers not only to resolve disputes, but, if need be, to appeal to the law enforcement organs to take legal proceedings against law breakers. However, according to B.N. Yeltsin's belief, at the same time there can be no question of reviving the preliminary censorship which paralyzed the freedom of press in our country during the 70-plus years of Soviet power. God preserve us from the Orwellian "Ministry of Truth," however it might be called and whoever might be running it—leftists, rightists, or centrists.

The ideologization of the state mass media is a deadly path which we have already traversed once and which leads only to the totalitarian impasse. This is why the only correct way out of the prevailing situation is to return to commitment to the first Law on the Mass Media in Russian history that was adopted in December 1991, and which meets the most exacting demands of world practice.

Military & Space Issues

Officials Debate Military Funding Problems

PM1409100193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Money Still Owed to Ministry of Defense"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Government is still urgently looking for ways to resolve the problems of financing the Armed Forces and enterprises carrying out the state defense order. During the last few days alone Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, has twice received Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister. Finance Minister Boris Fedorov and his deputies were present at these meetings.

During these meetings they examined in detail the numerous appeals that the Ministry of Defense has made to the government regarding these issues, including the appeals it has made in conjunction with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Security.

As a result of regular budget underfunding of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Atomic Energy, and the enterprises carrying out the state defense order, and also the discrepancy between indexation and price increases in real terms throughout the country, social and political tension is increasing in many regions, production is being halted, the fulfillment of the state defense order for 1993 is being wrecked, and combat training is proceeding with considerable problems.

Over the last two weeks, in line with an instruction from the Russian president and the chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers-Government, the Ministry of Defense's income from the Ministry of Finance has increased somewhat. However, according to data obtained at the Ministry of Defense, the state's total debt for the upkeep of the Armed Forces, the construction of housing for servicemen, and the bill for defense production now runs to 1.7 trillion rubles taking into account financing requirements for September 1993.

Most of the budget earmarked for defense needs is socially oriented. According to some assessments, about 20-25 percent of the Armed Forces' expenditure is connected with the withdrawal of troops onto Russian territory, an operation that is unprecedented in scale. About 55 percent of the earmarked funds go on maintaining the troops, which includes servicemen's pay and gear, provision of food, and the upkeep of military camps. Approximately another 17 percent of the defense budget has been earmarked for capital construction. Since 1992 this has been almost entirely connected with the provision of housing for officers and their families. According to a number of assessments, the Armed Forces receive weapons and combat hardware worth only one-third of the funds allocated for carrying out the state defense order; two-thirds go on taxes and support for the social sphere of defense enterprises.

More than 40 million people, including a very energetic section of the population, are currently concentrated in the sphere of ensuring the country's defense capability and security. In the report submitted to the Russian premier it was stressed that, being fully aware of the grave financial and economic situation in which the country finds itself, the Ministry of Defense is certainly not making a bid to increase the 1993 defense budget in fixed price terms but merely insisting on finance that corresponds to the real increase in prices within the framework of the pledges made by the state to servicemen and collectives carrying out the state defense order. Some idea of the real increase in prices can be gauged, for example, from the following figures: During the period from 1 January through 1 August 1993, the price of a T-72 tank went up by 1,160 percent, a BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicle by 2,110 percent, and a front-line Su-24M bomber by 1,090 percent.

In the opinion of the Ministry of Defense and the Russian Federation Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the pay of defense complex workers needs to be increased by pegging it at least to the average level of earnings in the machine-building sector, which it trails by 60-100 percent.

According to the assessments that have been expressed, the contraction of the 1993 state defense order planned by the Ministry of Finance will not only lead to the breakup of extremely important defense production facilities but will also risk considerable expenditure in the form of various kinds of compensatory amounts for enterprises that will exceed the amount payable in order to complete the order in line with the quotas specified by the government and the Supreme Soviet. The 1993 state defense order has already been formulated within the toughest framework which basically guarantees the survival of key production facilities only. The Ministry of Defense's absolute refusal to agree with these proposals has been supported by Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets.

The government must resolve an extremely difficult dilemma—how to secure the preservation of the Army and defense production facilities and at the same time not increase the budget deficit or the level of inflation, which is making life difficult for both the Army and the defense industry.

According to information at our disposal, the chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government instructed the Ministry of Finance to find a solution to the most pressing problems relating to the financing of the Armed Forces, enterprises carrying out the state defense order, internal and border troops, and law-enforcement organs.

Air Show Highlights Aerospace Industry's Successes

PM1009095593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Aleksandr Mozgovoy commentary: "On Wings to the Market"]

[Text] The results of the International Aerospace Show '93 that has ended in Moscow demonstrate above all that the Russian aerospace sector has gotten over (or, at any rate, is getting over) its fear of wholesale conversion.

Leaders of industrial enterprises and design bureaus have mostly accepted the market. Because, as test pilot Hero of the Russian Federation Anatoliy Kvochur believes, "in this sector we now have not only potential but real abilities that are not inferior and, in a number of cases are superior, to world standards."

Needless to say, organizational shortcomings can be listed. And the number of major contracts signed at the show is not impressive... But, first, this is the first time that an event on this scale has been staged in Russia. And, second, calculations in aerospace deals are often reckoned in billions rather than millions of dollars.

Something else is important—the show demonstrated the immense interest of foreign firms and organizations in the Russian aerospace industry. This is a sector where we do not need to go looking for foreign partners, they are rushing to offer their services. The "Energiya" Science and Production Association is cooperating successfully with the European Space Agency. The "Tupolev" Firm is developing mutually advantageous ties with German and French companies, as is "Ilyushin" with U.S. companies (the fruits of this partnership—the Il-96M airliner—could be seen on the ground and in the air at Zhukovskiy), "Yakovlev" with Israeli companies, and "Mikoyan" with Belgian, French, and Indian companies. The list could easily be continued.

Russia's aerospace industry has managed to maintain and, despite the well-known economic upheavals, even strengthen its close ties with enterprises in the sector throughout the entire former Soviet Union. It was no accident that the Uzbek and Ukrainian aircraft manufacturers' exhibits were among the most representative. The very well-known firm of "Antonov" in Kiev obtains up to 80 percent of its components from Russia. In turn, Ukrainian developments make it easier to appropriately convert Russian aircraft manufacturers—the giant An-124 is being assembled in Ulyanovsk, while the latest An-38, An-70, and An-74 are being put into series production in Novosibirsk, Samara, and Omsk.

But the show highlighted not only the achievements but also the sore points in the Russian aircraft, missile, and space sector.

"The unique features of the Russian aircraft displayed at the show were the product of scientific and technical research done 10-15 years ago," Vladimir Shorin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Science and Public Education, noted. "Our main concern today is to do similar groundwork for the future, for 15-20 years' time."

In this regard all the designers and manufacturers without exception have made a high assessment of the Program for the Development of Civil Aviation Equipment by the Year 2000 ratified by the Supreme Soviet this August.

"It guarantees modest but stable financing for civil projects," Vladimir Klimov, general director of the A. Tupolev Aviation Scientific and Technical Complex, stressed.

Probably the most dramatic position is currently in military aircraft and missile construction. Enterprises are virtually dying for want of funds. The state is simply not honoring its contractual commitments. As of the end of August the Defense Ministry owed subcontractors 271 billion rubles [R] for research and development work, and R325 billion for series deliveries of armaments. Aircraft and missile construction account for the lion's share of these sums.

"The position is almost a catastrophe," Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister, confirmed to me. "The Finance Ministry is not allocating the funds. If the government does not take some radical measures, this year's state defense orders will not be fulfilled in many areas."

The Finance Ministry is the department that was invariably the target of some strong objections at the show. Incidentally, the Defense Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and many other government organs often throw a wrench in the works as well. Defense complex representatives unanimously claim that they are not very worried about Western competitors, but have been made to tremble by officials at various levels who are blocking the expansion of arms exports.

This sphere of foreign economic activity is capable of making conversion substantially easier and bringing huge amounts of revenue into the state coffers. Judging by everything, some improvement is finally under way. Here is what your correspondent was told by Russian Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets:

"I think that we need to change our concept for exports of arms and military equipment. Excessive concentration and politicization are preventing us from being reliable partners and equal competitors."

Of course, it is necessary to take account of the specific situation in certain parts of the world and of our commitments under international treaties. But we need to work more boldly and to fight for markets. Further liberalizing the arms trade is one of our main tasks. Arms producers themselves should be allowed to enter markets.

A few things are already being done in this area. During the show we learned that the "Kamov" Firm had gained authorization to export the world's best ground-attack helicopter—the Ka-50. The famous "Black Shark" [Ka-50] will probably enter service with foreign armies before it does so with the Russian Army. Britain's Royal Navy is planning to buy the unique A-40 "Albatros" seaplane from the G. Beriyev Aviation Scientific and Technical Complex. It is not being ruled out that the state-of-the-art MiG-29M, Su-30, and Su-35 could also fly abroad to replenish other state's air units. And we should

not bemoan this fact—our designers have even more remarkable machines in the pipeline, and they are not forgetting about the defense of their own country.

Space Industry Discussed at Show

OW1409065993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 9 Sep 93

[By V. Foshenko; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] In terms of what was on view, it would probably not be correct to compare the Mosaeroshou [Moscow Aeronautics Exhibition] with an iceberg, since everything was open to the public. We still have some military secrets, and the technical potential of our space industry is far greater than would be indicated by what was displayed. Nevertheless, 70 percent of our space units are today working for the national economy. Communications, navigation, meteorology, geology, and cartography provide a far from complete list of the possible uses of our cosmonautics.

Rocket equipment is constantly becoming more complex and its production, too, is rising in cost. Not everything can be tested on the ground today, so some testing has to be carried out in a gravity-free environment. Capital investment amounting to 110 billion rubles is needed to save our cosmonautics industry. There is no clear-cut government program for the development of this branch, just as there is no state military doctrine linked directly with space. [Begin recording] [V.A. Stepanov, chief of the Main Administration for Space Rocket Equipment] Life is difficult today and, if we take a serious look, then our industry today is surviving on the output of civilian products. The general state of scientific research and experimental design work today is extremely unsatisfactory in terms of financing and series production delivery. In six months we have received only 14 percent of the required financing, and over 8 months only 40 percent. We are now in the eighth month. If we take into consideration the fact that we are producing material goods, not just shuffling paper, and that the cycle for preparing a machine in our complex requires 8 to 10 months at a minimum, you can see that we primarily need funds to be advanced at a level of at least 70 percent at the very beginning of the year. Then we will be able to operate as required and fulfill state orders.

Now I want to reiterate that today the branch is basically surviving on the basis of civilian production, which amounts to about 80 percent of all commercial goods produced.

[Foshenko] By the way, your civilian production runs from baby food to unique, hyperbaric chambers. Are these the limits of our space industry?

[Stepanov] No. Our list of civilian products covers a variety of products, rather like a supermarket. Everything you see here we have produced, from disposable syringes for the medical profession to scientifically complex products for the national economy and on to civilian goods.

[Foshenko] We are in the pavilion where the largest exhibits at today's show are on display. They are engines for the Energiya system produced by the Voronezh Machinery Plant. What do you think is the future of this plant—maintaining its links with space developments or a reorientation toward civilian production?

[Stepanov] I must note that the Voronezh Machinery Plant, if we single it out, can operate and cooperate with the Khimavtomatika Design Bureau, and has, in the past, operated at a production level of 126 percent, not 98 percent. Today the proportion of production devoted to basic engines for the Energiya-Buran system and launching other space equipment and rockets amounts to 8 percent. Owing to its powerful and unique foundry capabilities it has found itself a niche in the production of equipment for the petroleum and gas industry, which we always previously purchased abroad. [end recording]

Only time will tell how much longer our space industry will have to undergo such endurance testing.

Journalists Shown New 'Rapana' Space Device

LD1309172193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A sensation for journalists who took part in a news conference at Flight Control Center today was the Rapana device, which was being shown for the first time. This is the basis of a future orbital station, a joint project which is being examined by Russia, the United States, and Europe. Antennae, reflectors, and solar gas turbine devices will in the future be installed on such orbital supports.

Rapana will have its premiere in orbit on 16 September. It will undergo its first tests. To carry this out, Cosmonauts Tsibliyev and Serebrev will undertake a space walk.

[Begin recording] [A.Chernyavskiy, designer of Energiya scientific-production association] During their first space walk the cosmonauts will carry out this unit to the Kvant module. [end recording]

On 20 September, during their second space walk, Tsibliyev and Serebrev will extend the Rapana to a length of five meters. The device is manufactured of 21st century materials and weighs 26 kgs. One other sensation was the revelation today of a designers' secret. Materials that can revert to their original state [materialy s pamyatyu formy] are being used in the new generation of space technology. Thus, Rapana can unfold in just three minutes. Then the crew will set up on it samples of aerocosmic alloys for 10-month tests in outer space. The

conversion of such devices in medicine, motor vehicle construction, and civil aviation will bring in billions of dollars.

Designer Claims Cryogenic Engine Has No Military Use

LD1209135493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0735 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Interview with N.I. Leontyev, chief designer and director of the A.M. Isayev Khimmash Design Bureau, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] We asked this top secret designer from near Lipki why the world press has kicked up a such a storm over his invention, the cryogenic engine.

[Leontyev] This engine was designed on the basis of a technical order of a booster for an Indian project. The Indian project envisages the launching of a satellite into a geostatic or polar orbit round the earth for economic purposes. It should assist educational programs for India's vast population throughout the whole territory of the country.

[Correspondent] This means that there are no military tasks included...

[Leontyev interrupts] No military tasks have been envisaged, and none can be envisaged, since the engine you see here has been made with the use of cryogenic components, liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen. Specialists throughout the world, not only in Russia or the United States, know that engines that have cryogenic components cannot be used for military purposes, since it takes several months to prepare for the launch of such a rocket. Whereas we know that for military purposes it should take only several seconds, or at the most minutes, to launch a missile. So to say that this engine has been designed for military use and that handing over this technology will develop the military might of India does not correspond to reality.

[Correspondent] Why then are the Americans digging their heels in?

[Leontyev] Well, you see I am a scientist, a designer. I think this matter primarily concerns commercial, not technological reasons. I think in this case Russia has got in someone's way, maybe in the way of a certain U.S. firm or firms, or maybe the whole state. So, let's speak about the fact that this engine, which is being designed on a contract between Russia and India, cannot be used for military purposes.

[Correspondent] Incidentally, this engine was designed for our lunar program.

Defense Committee Reorganization Reported

LD1009174193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] The Committee of the Russian Federation for Defense Sections of Industry has received the status of state committee, reports ITAR-TASS. At the proposal of President Boris Yeltsin, a law on its reorganization was passed by Russia's Supreme Soviet today. The president believes that the reorganization of the committee will make it possible to more effectively implement the inter-section coordination of defense complex activities. Raising the status of the committee will also assist in improving its interaction with the state bodies of other states, first of all Commonwealth countries.

Leaders Accused of 'Dismantling' Armed Forces

PM1009142193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Untitled report from the "Party Press Digest" column prepared by Andrey Zhukov]

[Text] In its issue no. 3 for 1993 RUSSKIY PORYADOK [Russian Order], the newspaper of Aleksandr Barkashov's Russian National Unity, devotes attention to the state of modern Russia's Armed Forces. Captain S.V. Rogozhin writes as follows in the article "Russia's Army: The Present and the Future":

"The lack of a national political and defense doctrine, the hasty signing of capitulatory treaties on the reduction of the Armed Forces and the withdrawal of troops from Europe, and the destruction of the Army's material and technical base under the signboard of conversion—these are the strategic components of the dismantling of the Armed Forces being carried out by the country's present rulers. The recently mighty army is rapidly being turned into toy battalions: There are no exercises, field firing has been cut back owing to the lack of funds—which sharply reduces the troops' professionalism—and hardware, which has been patched dozens of times, is not replaced...."

Economic Issues

Chubays Criticizes Lobov's Privatization Plan

LD1409110393

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1245 GMT on 13 September carries the 30-minute "Business in Russia" program that carries several recorded interviews on the background to President Boris Yeltsin's decision on 11 September to cancel an order that would have changed the conditions for privatization by indexing privatization checks and revaluing fixed assets. One of the interviewees on "Business in Russia" is Russian Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, who presents his view of the issue. He says:

"The essence of the note [from Oleg Lobov, first deputy prime minister and minister of the economy, on which the now-rescinded order was based] is fairly simple. It contains two key ideas. The first idea is a parallel, synchronized revaluation of the voucher and of fixed assets, but the vouchers would be revalued 25-fold, from 10,000 to 250,000, while fixed assets would be revalued in totally different proportions. The difference in the proportions of the revaluation would create a situation where the real value of the privatization check would fall to one-sixth or one-seventh of its original level, or its value measured against that of fixed ...sets.

"What does this mean in real terms? It means that those members of the public who are entitled to use vouchers at their face value in the course of privatization would have to pay six to seven times more in vouchers. There is now just one category of people in Russia who are entitled to use vouchers at their face value: the work force. Nobody but the members of the work force enjoy that privilege, and as you can understand, no serious and—let me repeat—responsible politician would raise the cost of privatization for members of the work force by six times today, of course. That is Mr. Lobov's first general idea.

"Mr. Lobov's second general idea is to reduce equally radically the volume of property eligible to be sold for vouchers. Simplifying the picture slightly, such property currently makes up 80 percent of the total. There are certain nuances, but that basic figure, 80 percent, is the proportion of each privatized enterprise that can be sold for privatization vouchers. Mr. Lobov is proposing to reduce that figure to 30 percent. You don't have to be a great economist or even minister of economics to realize what that means. It means that the volume of property being offered for privatization vouchers at voucher-based auctions is to be cut by three-fifths, if you divide 30 by 80. What that means is that not the members of the work force this time, but those who are left in the other part of the process, those who are participating in privatization through voucher-based auctions and investment funds, will suffer to the tune of three-fifths. They won't matter: All the rest of the country's population will, as it were, be robbed to the tune of three-fifths. They will be offered three-fifths less property for the very same vouchers. Naturally, such proposals cannot be taken seriously by anybody."

Lobov Argues for Reorganizing Economy Ministry

PM1309135593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

["Exclusive" ITAR-TASS interview with Oleg Lobov, first deputy prime minister and economy minister, carried under the "Economy" rubric; place and date not given: "The Government: Reorganization of Ministry of Economy Deferred"]

[Text] The Russian Government Presidium has simply been unable to reach a single view on the reorganization of the Ministry of the Economy.

The draft changes presented to the Presidium session by Oleg Lobov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers and minister of the economy, came in for criticism. While, as Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who chaired the session, remarked, the critics "did not formulate their own constructive vision of the Ministry of the Economy."

In an exclusive ITAR-TASS interview Oleg Lobov formulated his concept of the Ministry of the Economy's role and place in Russia's life today.

"The country needs a coordinating body to combine the economic dimension of the efforts of the numerous departments and ministries. It should be a single regulatory rather than administrative body which develops an overall concept of the country's socioeconomic development in the light of its foreign economic activity, the domestic situation, security, and other factors. It should be a body which backs up the Council of Ministers's work rather than supplanting the Council of Ministers. Attempts are being made to present the draft as supplanting the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers is a body which is in session periodically. But there has to be a body that operates day and night, that is to say, a coordinating apparatus."

The solution of the most important questions, those on which the situation of the country and the prosperity of its population depend, Oleg Lobov stressed, is directly bound up with concerting the efforts of the regions. "If we constantly give priority to the autonomy of the regions we are certainly going to split up."

Zaveryukha Defends Agricultural Policies

PM1409091193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Interview with Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha by Aleksandr Gavrilyuk; place and date not given: "Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha: Bread Will Become Dearer"]

[Text] Our interview with Aleksandr Zaveryukha, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers who is in charge of the agrarian sector, began with the harvest campaign.

[Zaveryukha] We continue to lag behind last year's level by 6 million hectares. The main reason is the bad weather. It has been raining and you simply cannot get into the fields. The problem is not fuel—there is enough of it—the problem is paying for it. As of today producers are owed 230 billion rubles [R] for the grain already delivered. But I hope that the debt will be reduced in the near future. The paperwork is already being done for

R200 billion. The president and head of government have assured me that the money will be allocated promptly.

[Gavrilyuk] But reports are still coming in from the provinces that there is a catastrophic lack of resources, that there are few credits, and that there is not enough investment.

[Zaveryukha] I am deeply convinced that there does not have to be enough of them and that this is an indispensable condition with this form of management. There must always be a shortage of resources and it must be a factor encouraging peasants to work more efficiently.

[Gavrilyuk] In that case will you please explain the essence of your differences with Finance Minister B. Fedorov? His accusations that you are "deliberately trying to wreck the state's financial policy and are coming out against real reforms in the agricultural economy... A. Zaveryukha is constantly trying to push decisions through the government that are economically groundless..." and so on and so forth are quite serious.

[Zaveryukha] I will cite some figures: In the first half of the year the countryside received R300 billion less than it should have from the budget, and at the same time the allocation of credits to peasants is being delayed and the government decision to reimburse them the difference in the preferential credit interest rate—which amounts to R350 billion—is not being implemented, plus the fact that they are owed R400 billion by processing enterprises—so what can the peasant do? Although I share many positions emanating from Fedorov on tightening the budget, I put everything else down merely to his ignorance of real life in Russia—in the countryside in particular—and in my opinion he does not particularly want to find out about it. As regards the personal insults and accusations that "...I express my gratitude to the Supreme Soviet for support," I do not quite understand what kind of support is meant. I am a professional agrarian, I speak the same language as my colleagues and I do not need anybody's support in the sense Fedorov means. I do not consider it possible to keep aloof from my colleagues in the Supreme Soviet. I have not lowered myself to indulge in mutual recriminations with Fedorov, even when he was explaining his remarks to the government, although it is obvious that he is banking on a split in the government; I do not engage in political shenanigans....

[Gavrilyuk] I will interrupt the interview with Aleksandr Zaveryukha here. The point is that lately he has been attacked from both the right and left, if I can put it like that. For example, the comment made by Vitaliy Vitebsk, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Industry, and reproduced by a newspaper is priceless: "...the stereotyped thinking of Zaveryukha, who is used to the old forms of managing the economy," is hindering the building of market relations. And he expressed himself thus regarding the formation within the government of a Committee for Machine Building and the Servicing of Agricultural, to which industrialists in the Supreme Soviet objected, fearing, I think, that certain structures of the government Committee for Machine Building would be reorganized.

On the other hand, farmers are accusing him of cowardice for not participating in the economic conference....

[Zaveryukha] I have never been a coward and do not intend to give way on questions of principle. But in practical work, which is what I am engaged in, I see no constructive proposals coming out of the economic conference that was held. When I hear criticism being directed at me, as it recently was in Leningrad Oblast, where people really started laying into me, a protest wells up inside—come on, propose something more intelligent. But silence is the reply. Or people say: "Everyone needs to be given a plan." But how can this be done when all around everything has been privatized. Where, for instance, will you be able to deliver milk if a plant does not want to accept it?

[Gavrilyuk] Since you mentioned the privatization of processing enterprises, not everything is going smoothly here either.

[Zaveryukha] I will go further—a most serious mistake has been made, as a result of which the employees of processing enterprises became their bosses. In my opinion the producers, the peasants, must have priority and the controlling block of shares.

[Gavrilyuk] Grain purchase prices fixed by the government have given rise to many questions among farmers. Because this is what is happening: Farms received money for harvesting, bought a few items of equipment, and paid megadigit prices for fuel. What is left to live on, for building, medical treatment, relaxation?

[Zaveryukha] Currently there is no firmness in price formation, prices are recommended by the government but people have had a go at them, chipping and nibbling away. I think that as of next year we will scrap state deliveries, the state will procure everything necessary for federal needs in the market. It must be created.

[Gavrilyuk] Since we have mentioned this year's harvest, how do you explain to your fellow countrymen the following paradox—there is plenty of bread but it is becoming increasingly expensive.

[Zaveryukha] First of all let them prepare themselves—bread will become increasingly expensive. This is happening because a prime factor—power sources—is becoming more expensive. For instance, in Altay a liter of solar oil now costs R160-180, and is even dearer in the Far East. So how can it not become more expensive? There is now a proposal to release prices not only for bread but also for all agricultural products from 1 October, since farmers have been forced to live according to the laws of the market. Then bread will be expensive throughout the world.

[Gavrilyuk] But we are used to cheap bread....

[Zaveryukha] We will have to get unused to it. We are used to many things that we will have to get unused to.

Deputy Finance Minister on Ruble Stabilization

PM1309144793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed report from the "Monitoring" column: "Finances"]

[Text] Carrying out all settlements on the territory of Russia in rubles alone as of October was described by Deputy Finance Minister Anatoliy Golovatyy as the most acceptable way to improve the country's financial position. In his opinion, to protect the national currency you must first and foremost ensure strict implementation of the president's edict stopping the circulation of other countries' money and introduce such a clause into the law on currency regulation. The creation of an extensive network of exchange centers in Russia where everyone will be able freely to exchange any currency for rubles will be the first practical step in realization of the plan.

Experts Forecast Foreign Investment Levels for 1994

LD1309153293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Deineko]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Experts of the Russian Economy Ministry say that it is realistically possible to attract no more than one billion U.S. dollars in centralised investments in 1994. This is only 10-15 per cent of the nine billion dollars envisaged by intergovernmental and crediting agreements with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and some other international financial organisations.

The inflow of private foreign investments is forecast at a level of 1.5-2 billion U.S. dollars, without the possible attraction of credits and reinvestment by enterprises with foreign capital. However, experts say, this sum can rise to 3 billion-4 billion dollars if privileged treatment is offered to foreign investors and enterprises created with their participation. Conversely, the sum can shrink to 0.5 billion dollars if no urgent measures are taken. In fact, if the latter occurs, a mass outflow of capital is possible.

Sources of Inflation Examined

PM1309122793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 1

[Article by Irina Savvateyeva: "Prices Taking Off"]

[Text] "Perhaps we will succeed in avoiding hyperinflation but the situation is very alarming," experts from the Working Center for Economic Reforms stated at a recent briefing. "The main reason for the expected leap in prices is the budget deficit."

As Andrey Illarionov, the prime minister's adviser, put it, "The Ministry of Finance may be forced" to earmark 10 trillion rubles in credit emissions by the end of the year to cover the budget deficit. And 10 trillion is a very, very optimistic assessment. It is entirely likely that they will want to "extract" even more from Fedorov. It is true that at his last press conference the finances minister stated that the Ministry of Finance's collegium will defend to the end the program of financial stabilization that the department has elaborated and submitted for the government's examination. But to this day the government has not adopted this program.

"Let us suppose that it is adopted," Sergey Vasilyev, leader of the working center, noted. "After all it is always possible later to make individual decisions which will cancel out any program."

So far the confrontation between the Ministry of Finance and the sectorial lobbyists has ended with Fedorov, who is perfectly robust and until recently completely healthy, being recently removed by doctors from his workplace.

Who needed 10 trillion rubles [R] and why? It is planned to release a considerable proportion of this sum for preferential credits for the purchase of grain. Sergey Vasilyev commented unambiguously on the "grain fever":

"We have discovered a lack of any link between the credits supplied and the purchases which are really necessary. It is embezzlement of state property. All the accusations against Rutskoy and Shumeyko are incomparable in scale with the figures which exist in the "grain deals."

And the figures are as follows. With a market price for grain of R35,000 a tonne, the state is buying it at R70,000. As a result our prices for grain are 80 percent of world prices while the overall correlation between all Russian prices and world market prices is 21 percent. Thus society is simply paying for the existence of collective and state farm barons. And the demands of the absolutely unbridled and unpunished Starodubtsevs are increasing markedly. Last year 7.7 percent of the GNP was spent on supporting the agroindustrial complex. This year 15 percent of all money earned by the people will go to feed the agrarian lobby.

You note that budget money is being issued for grain purchases at a ridiculously low interest rate—25 percent a year. Of course, the more free rubles you take the more you try to get through false claims. And now the Roskhleboprodukt [Russian federal grain product corporation] is trying without a trace of embarrassment to extract from the Ministry of Finance preferential credits for 40 million tonnes of grain. This when 14 million tonnes have already been purchased and last year we managed with a far more modest figure—28.8 million tonnes.

Our Starodubtsevs are very fond of feigning poverty. But consider the following details: Last year the profitability of plant growth was 260 percent. This year it is expected to be 400-500 percent. In 1992, when the purchase price for grain was R12,000 Sverdlovsk Oblast received cheap credits to buy it at R4 million a tonne!

Gaydar once said: "I was removed by the agrarian lobby." It will not be in the least surprising if the lobby now "removes" Mr. Fedorov (or puts him in a hospital bed for good).

And one more source of inflation is aid for the ruble zone states.

Experts from the government analytical group assess the signing of the agreement on the single ruble zone as a return to the situation in which Russia provided money free of charge to the other CIS countries. There has been the following commentary:

"In Russia itself the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank cannot agree between each other and here it will be necessary to reach agreement with several ministries of finance and several central banks."

And here is what free ruble aid is costing us. In 1992 Russia gave the former republics $7 billion in rubles, which was 8 percent of its GNP. Not a single developed country allows itself such a luxury. The wealthiest countries now spend no more than 1 percent of their gross domestic product on free aid. As a result one fourth of all last year's inflation in Russia was the result of "fraternal aid." Over the first seven months of this year Russia gave its neighbors about $2 billion—in rubles.

Government experts assert that Russia supplies the former republics with more money per capita than it leaves for itself for each Russian. Last year we financed 50-70 percent of the domestic consumption of states like Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. This year these figures have dropped by an average of 25-30 percent. Thanks to this aid Turkmenistan, for instance, has the opportunity to provide its citizens with free travel on public transport and with food subsidies. And the Russian Communists and agrarian lobbyists have one more pretext to brand the Russian reformers for the "unjust" and inhumanely tough implementation of reforms."

Committee Releases Part-Time Employment Figures

LD1309170093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From the "Parliamentary Hour" program]

[Text] According to the State Statistics Committee, about 4 million people have been employed part-time by Russian enterprises in 1993, of whom 2.8 million were given additional unpaid or partially paid holidays; 900,000 people have worked a reduced week. Industries in Ivanovo and Volgograd oblasts and Chuvachiya have been particularly affected by reduced employment.

Government Issues Subsidies for Children's Clothes

LD1409100793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—The Russian Council of Ministers has decreed to pay compensation of 1,500 roubles to families who buy clothes for children of pre-school and school age under 13 in the third quarter of this year, and 1,900 roubles to families with school children above that age. This was done to strengthen social protection of families within the low income bracket.

According to the government decree signed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on September 9, "compensation for children's clothes shall be paid to families with an avarage per capita income of not more than four times the minimum wage as it stood on June 1, 1993."

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Move Against Ryabov 'Total Failure'

PM1309143693 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Sergey Chugayev article: "Ryabov Beats Off Attack. Khasbulatov Is Nervous. Parliament Seeks Contacts With President"]

[Text] It is perfectly possible that the head of the Russian parliament is deeply regretting the fact that at the 10 September morning joint session sitting of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet he so ardently supported Deputy V. Sevostyanov's proposal to "discuss N. Ryabov" and that he even persuaded his colleagues to consider him first of all. The reprisal against the dissident deputy speaker plainly did not come off.

As is known, Ryabov has been in disgrace since he participated in the Constitutional Conference. Nevertheless, R. Khasbulatov, despite the persistence of leaders of communist factions, was clearly avoiding embarking on a radical solution to this problem. This was most likely because the Supreme Soviet does not have the right to dismiss from his post or to remove from work the Congress-elected vice speaker. Therefore it was not at all clear what specific consequences even a perfectly successful auto-da-fe of Ryabov within the walls of parliament might have. It has to be thought, however, that the president's recent directive on the formation of a Constitutional Commission working group headed by Ryabov to agree the draft of the new constitution had exhausted Khasbulatov's patience, and he issued the order to start acting.

It should hardly be doubted that the discussion procedure was stage-managed in advance, and the fact that it ended in total failure for the stage managers merely attests to the weakness of their positions. In practice three specific reproaches were leveled at Ryabov. The first was from Khasbulatov personally: Why did he not obtain permission for his actions from his superiors, i.e. from the Supreme Soviet chairman? The second and third were from deputies: the reproach that he is involved in creating the Federation Council and that, in fulfilling the president's assignment, Ryabov almost becomes acting vice president.

Tribute should be paid to Ryabov. His chosen tactic of calmly answering any questions and accusations, even the most absurd ones, proved to be a winning move. In any case, as could well be seen, it simply put Khasbulatov beside himself and caused him to try constantly to interrupt the speech of his disgraced deputy.

The deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet spoke in quite great detail about his responsibilities and how he carries them out. As regards the president's assignment, Ryabov explained that it had been given by B. Yeltsin as chairman of the Constitutional Commission (no one has yet released him from this post) to Ryabov as deputy chairman of the Constitutional Commission. Thus, there are hardly any grounds for suspecting Ryabov of aiming for Rutskoy's seat.

After it became obvious that they would hardly succeed in finding the vice speaker guilty of neglecting his official duties, his opponents switched their efforts to showing up his political face. Contrary to expectations, however, the person "under investigation" did not prevaricate and, replying to a question that was put with party-minded directness—What is your attitude to the Supreme Soviet and the Congress?—he declared definitely that, in his opinion, owing to the fact that many dissident deputies have left the Supreme Soviet, it has largely lost the attributes of a real parliament and now more resembles a political monolith which it is appropriate to compare with the CPSU Central Committee. With regard to the Congress the opinion was expressed that it is becoming historically obsolete, but this does not mean that the Congress must be eliminated by illegitimate means. Ryabov also voiced the conviction that early parliamentary elections must be held. He believes that they can be held next spring, but only after the adoption of the new constitution or constitutional law.

To all appearances, Ryabov's clear and quite bold replies made an impression on the audience. This seems to have been sensed by the perceptive Khasbulatov, who finally terminated the hopeless debate with these words: "Let us end. You will not achieve anything anyhow." He proposed confining themselves to issuing a warning to the vice speaker.

The proposal by Deputy Sidorenko to raise the question of no confidence in Ryabov as deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet looked like a final attempt to save the game. It was at once enthusiastically supported by Khasbulatov, but this question immediately arose: Does the Supreme Soviet have the right to supplant the Congress by adopting a decision which virtually provides for the vice speaker's resignation? Employing the concept of "right of precedence," Khasbulatov maintained that it does, but after once again sensing the deputies' mood, he soon won them back. He did succeed in partially compensating for the loss, and to the accompaniment of the continuing debate with the words "Does the chairman's opinion mean something?" he entered in the minutes of the session the Supreme Soviet decision on a warning to Ryabov, bypassing the voting procedure. "Next time, I warn you, you will be removed at a session of the Supreme Soviet," the head of parliament told his deputy. Ryabov asked to speak. Khasbulatov did not let him.

During the session many observers pointed out that the head of parliament was clearly nervous. Such a state could hardly be accounted for just by irritation connected with the failure of the reprisal against Ryabov. Rather, the head of parliament is not too pleased with the sentiments reigning in the Supreme Soviet. Particularly the fact that the previous day a majority of parliamentary factions had come out, without asking his opinion, in favor of establishing contacts with the president. In verbally supporting that initiative, Khasbulatov, as always, did not omit to resort to the well-known argument that the source of confrontation is not in parliament but in the executive, which, moreover, unlike parliament, in Khasbulatov's opinion, is not working. The following words were the strongest passage in this speech: "If the president has not assumed the responsibility of being the father of the nation... we have assumed this responsibility."

Still, to all appearances, Khasbulatov did not have himself personally in mind but parliament as the "collective father of the nation"—the exact opposite of the "collective Rasputin."

Details of 10 Sep Supreme Soviet Session

PM1409092993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Article under "Supreme Soviet Session" rubric by Parliamentary Observer Andrey Sharapov: "For Compromise Within the Framework of the Constitution"]

[Text] During the discussion of the agenda at the joint session of the chambers 10 September, parliamentarians approved Deputy Peruanskiy's proposal to appeal to the president for cooperation. Ruslan Khasbulatov, who was in the chair, stressed that the focus of confrontation does not reside in the House of the Soviets and that parliament is ready at any time to enter into dialogue and seek any compromise within the framework of the Constitution and the laws. It was not the deputies' fault that normal working contacts between parliament and the president were broken off. The legislative and judicial branches of power are working more or less satisfactorily

today but the executive is in crisis. Further confirmation of that was provided by the government's unreadiness to present to parliament a report on the results of work in the first half-year. The increase in charges for energy in September is bringing the leading sectors of industry to the brink of stoppage, and parliament, at the proposal of Veniamin Sokolov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, has insisted on hearing from the prime minister next week.

Valentin Stepankov, the general prosecutor, recalled that the normative acts on the inviolability of top officials and organs of power was created on the assumption that we are living in a normal country with unshakable moral and ethical norms. There is a mechanism governing discharge of duties and accountability which is designed for the protection of people's deputies and judges, but when it comes to the president and vice president such accountability has not been laid down by law. The vice president was not allowed into the Kremlin on the personal instructions of the president. Parliament recognized the need to prepare additions to the law governing accountability for infringing the inviolability of the president and the vice president.

The Supreme Soviet chairman drew attention to a series of events which seem to be following a plan: The attempts at short notice to remove the vice president and neutralize the Constitutional Court. Now Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, is carrying out the president's special instructions as though he were vice president.

On the suggestion of Deputy Sevastyanov, parliament continued the examination of N. Ryabov's report on his activity. In the report Ryabov talked about his duties and expressed the opinion that the congress of people's deputies has outlived its historical usefulness and that parliament today is being transformed into a monolithic force on a single political platform and for that reason can be compared with the CPSU Central Committee. Deputies sharply criticized Ryabov's activity, which is aimed, in their opinion, at splitting parliament and removing it from the political arena. Passions rose, but on Ruslan Khasbulatov's proposal the examination of the question was limited to a warning.

The decree "On the Procedure for Implementing Article 16 of the Russian Federation Law 'On Elections of People's Deputies to Local Soviets of the Russian Federation' in the Context of the Amalgamation of Local Soviets and Their Reorganization in Connection With the Resubordination of Administrative-Territorial Units" was adopted.

Parliament examined the implementation of the 1992 Pension Fund budget.

Khasbulatov Meeting With TV Journalists Assessed

PM1409094193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 6

[Nikita Vaynonen report: "Meeting With the Press... Without the Press"]

[Text] Last Tuesday Ruslan Khasbulatov met with journalists of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Company. Given the difficult, to put it mildly, relations that exist between parliament and the media, especially the electronic media, it is not difficult to understand that the meeting, which, incidentally, was planned long ago, was bound to arouse the special interest of television viewers and Russian television journalists' colleagues. Alas, your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent was unable to gain access to the meeting despite the fact that a pass had been ordered for him. He was told that the press was not being admitted. Meeting the press without admitting... the press! Can you think of anything more absurd? Did they get a signed pledge from those colleagues who did attend not to disclose what they heard? During 40 years of working in the press this is the first time I have come across this. With no possibility of sharing my own impressions, I am forced to confine myself to the very scant All-Russia State Television and Radio Company Press Service report.

It says, among other things, that, although a Supreme Soviet commission has been closely studying the television and radio company's work for several weeks now, Khasbulatov clearly felt the need to gather his own information. "It is difficult for television journalists to refrain from sarcasm when they work in such conditions," he said after inspecting the televison center at Shabolovka, and he promised that "he will unfailingly support Russian televison and radio."

You could have gotten an idea of the actual meeting on Wednesday evening, when RTV broadcast a recording of a quite a big section of it. But the program went out so late that scarcely more than a few percent of the population saw it. In an even, admonitory tone of voice the parliamentary speaker charged journalists with a one-sided portrayal of parliament's work. In general, (provided, of course, nothing substantial has been left off camera) you can agree with the All-Union State Television and Radio Company Press Service, which reported that the meeting "...was quite affable and even good-natured." Khasbulatov "...refrained from leveling the usual array of charges against the electronic media and assured the assembly that the Federal Council for Safeguarding Freedom of Expression on Television and Radio was not as terrible as journalists made out." The Supreme Soviet chairman, colleagues report, reminded them "that it was the Supreme Soviet which defended the All-Russia State Television and Radio Company chairman when President Yeltsin appointed him acting chairman by a recent edict." The guest answered "the

pointed questions put to him by journalists very diplomatically, seeking not to exacerbate relations and demonstrating a readiness for compromise that surprised everyone." The press service does, however, conclude its release by reporting that the Supreme Soviet Commission for Monitoring the Activity of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Company will continue its work. Bearing in mind that this commission began by issuing a patently tendentious questionnaire to journalists, this is not a gratifying piece of news. Nevertheless, let us hope that the speaker's impressions of the journalists and his personal contact with them will make him more prudent and objective. It is high time "the miasmas of malevolence," as he put it, were dispelled!

Supreme Soviet Wants Panel on WGF Property in FRG

PM1309150393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Mozgovoy report under "Parliament" rubric: "The 'German' Question Again"]

[Text] The Committee for Affairs of Invalids and War and Labor Veterans and for Providing Social Protection for Servicemen and Members of Their Families has proposed that a commission to monitor the sale and utilization of Western Group of Forces property and of other Russian property on FRG territory be set up under the Supreme Soviet.

Let us recall: In order to solve questions associated with the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces from Germany, first of all the State Economic Mission was formed, which was soon transformed into a commission by the president's edict. This department did not exist for long. It was abolished at the beginning of May last year and then revived, being transferred to the government's control, but the ball did not stop rolling there. In November 1992 the commission was given the status of a territorial agency of the State Committee for the Management of State Property. On 1 March this year the agency handed over its powers to the federal service under the Russian Federation president. Finally, this structure was scrapped altogether by B. Yeltsin's edict of 28 June.

Reorganizations come as no surprise these days. But you will agree that five "reincarnations" including abolitions and resurrections within an extremely short time is not an everyday phenomenon. The commission was clearly interfering. This department's officials called a spade a spade in relation to the authorities, who found it awkward to have a monitoring service with extremely wide powers alongside them. They are the Defense Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and commercial structures which have got their eyes on Russian property on German soil. On 16 December last year President Yeltsin and Chancellor Kohl reached an understanding whereby Russia renounces property claims in Germany in exchange for the German side's renunciation of claims for ecological damage caused by our troops.

The beloved "zero agreement" in no way applies to a considerable amount of Russian real estate in Germany. A large number of plots of land with buildings and other structures falls into this category. They were handed over to the USSR (and Russia is its successor) by decision of the Allied occupation authorities and by orders of the Soviet military administration in 1945-1949, and were also bought for cash from German physical and legal entities by various Soviet organizations.

One of the conditions for the unification of Germany in 1990 runs as follows: Acts of the occupying authorities are not subject to review. This has also been twice confirmed by the FRG Constitutional Court—in December 1990 and April 1991. German experts estimate the total value of these Russian plots of land at several billion marks.

With the aim of protecting our country's economic interests during the withdrawal of Western Group of Forces units and while Russia's rights to real estate on FRG territory are being sought and confirmed, the Supreme Soviet Committee for Affairs of Invalids and War and Labor Veterans and for Providing Social Protection for Servicemen and Members of Their Families proposes that an appropriate commission be formed with the powers of a local section of the Russian Federal Property Fund. The commission is also intended to facilitate the creation of Russian-German funds and joint ventures based on Russian property in Germany and the implementation of major economic projects.

Regional Affairs

Shakhray Arrives in Krasnoyarsk 13 Sep

LD1309192493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Khots]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk, 13 September—During his continuing trip around Siberia, Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray arrived in Krasnoyarsk today.

In the opinion of representatives of the Krasnoyarsk Kray administration, the main aim of the vice premier's visit to this large industrial region is to familiarize himself with the social and political situation on the spot. Recently the leadership of the kray claimed that it is a force capable of making extraordinary decisions on policy and the economy without a care for even the highest levels of authority.

A few days ago, for example, the Constitutional Court acknowledged the correctness of the local authorities who contested the legality of the president's decree on privatization of power engineering facilities. Here they suspended payment of part of the federal taxes to the

center, having considered it necessary to release them for the needs of budget financed organizations. The local soviet, which considers it necessary to enshrine the equality of all the subjects of the Federation in the new constitution, remains firm in its stand.

On 14 September Sergey Shakhray is to visit the Krasnoyarsk machine building factory, one of the major defense enterprises, to meet representatives of the creative and scientific intelligentsia, and he is also to have a conversation with the Krasnoyarsk leadership, with a limited number of participants.

Moscow Voters Send Letter to Yeltsin, Government, Court

LD1309161393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 13 ITAR-TASS—A group of Muscovites sent a collective letter to President Yeltsin, the Russian Government and the Constitutional Court, in which they expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of legality, "reigning in the Supreme Soviet's chambers".

The letter's authors are protesting against the fact that "many deputies vote for 5-7 people, using others' voting cards and buttons".

The letter also criticizes the nature of the decisions made by the Supreme Soviet lately, urging Yeltsin to make use of his power and call elections to a new legislature.

Chechnya's Dudayev on Current Subversive Acts

LD1309195893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By correspondents R. Khadzhiyev and V. Belfer from Groznyy, including recording of interview with Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudayev—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Khadzhiyev] Following hearty celebrations of the second anniversary of its independence, Chechnya has returned to its normal routine. The young republic has problems aplenty. The new economic program involving the private sector and the state sector alike is slowly gathering pace. However, priority continues to be given to relations with Russia. The negotiating process has resumed and it is at this juncture that complications arose.

According to Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of Chechnya, both Chechnya and Russia currently have forces that are not interested in normalizing bilateral relations.

[Belfer] Dzhokhar Musayevich, the negotiating process with the Russian Federation has now been resumed, that is known—but it is not all that smooth, passions are again flaring up concerning the republic. What and who is behind it?

[Dudayev] It is difficult to suppose that this process will be smooth. As soon as a constructive dialogue gets off the ground, more acts of subversion begin straight away.

[Belfer] Here Dzhokhar Dudayev mentioned the recent blowing up of a bridge, the detention of a Kamaz truck on the Chechen border carrying Russian arms, and the case of arson at a facility housing archives. Dzhokhar Dudayev thinks that those who do not look favorably on the current executive authorities in Russia and Chechnya can be discerned as being behind all this.

Ingush Referendum Not To Lead to Secession

MK1409083893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 1

[Radik Batyrshin report under "Ingushetia" rubric: "A Referendum of Despair? Secession From Russia Vs. Return of Refugees"]

[Text] The emergency Congress of Ingush Peoples has instructed the republic's president, Ruslan Aushev, to call a referendum on the issue of the republic's status as part of the Russian Federation. The congress' 11 September resolution substantiates this decision by the fact that "over a long time the constitutional rights of the Ingush people have been violated while the federal bodies have evaded the implementation of the president's edicts and directives and the decisions of the government, the Supreme Soviet, and the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies." Ruslan Aushev will also have to clearly formulate the questions for the referendum:

1. Do you consider it possible for the Ingush Republic to stay within the Russian Federation in the conditions of the unceasing genocide of the Ingush people?

2. Do you agree that the Ingush Republic should build its relations with the Russian Federation and other republics and states on the basis of treaties and agreements?

The second formulation is very reminiscent of the question in the Tatarstan referendum and does not provide for Ingushetia's departure from Russia, if only because the Federation Treaty (which Nazran has not signed yet) could well be referred to the category of "treaties and agreements." One of the authoritative Ingush politicians, Boris Yeltsin's representative to Nazran Isa Kostoyev, doubts that Ruslan Aushev will choose the first variant of the question for the referendum. In an interview with INTERFAX he stated that between 80 and 90 percent of Ingushetia's population will vote against secession from the Russian Federation. According to him, at present Ingushetia should decide primarily the question of trust in the current federal power structures and not sign the Federation Treaty with the incumbent leadership of the Russian Federation. Isa Kostoyev believes that only in this event will it be possible to stand up to "the chain of carefully organized provocations aimed at isolating Ingushetia and forcing quarrels between the Ingush and the Cossacks." By "provocation" Kostoyev meant the 9

September assassination of two Cossacks at the Kavdolomit mine in North Ossetia. The emergency congress expressed its "sheer outrage at this crime," while the Ingush Security Ministry denied reports about an Ingush being implicated in this crime. Having adopted a relevant appeal, the Congress of Ingush Peoples finished its work and thus shifted all responsibility to Ruslan Aushev, who will have to determine both the time frame and the question itself for the upcoming referendum.

The Ingush president will hardly carry out his long-standing threat about withdrawing from Russia since Moscow, which forcibly froze the Ossetian-Ingush conflict last fall, is still the sole force in the region potentially capable of resolving it. Therefore the assessment by Aleksandr Khodov, secretary of the North Ossetian Security Ministry, of the congress' decision about the upcoming referendum as "just another form of blackmail and a method to exert pressure on Russia's leadership," filed by INTERFAX, appears more than emotional. Exchanges of propaganda strikes in the past 10 months have become so commonplace that they seem to be of interest only to the conflicting parties. Even if it is assumed that all the radical formulations proposed are approved by the Ingush referendum, the most the Ingush people will get as a result of the plebiscite with any formulation of the question will be a legitimate trump card in Nazran's endless talks with Moscow and Vladikavkaz.

Statement on Kaliningrad Territorial Status Denied

WS1409113493 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Sep 93 p 1

[Statement issued by the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration Press Center, published under the "Official" rubric; place and date not given]

[Text] On 20 August 1993, PRAVDA newspaper, referring to the Polish weekly WPROST, reported that the head of the Kaliningrad Oblast ostensibly "stated that the region is an autonomous province of East Prussia, hinted successive transformation of Kaliningrad into Koenigsberg, and welcomed emigrants from Germany."

The Press Center has been authorized to announce that the head of the Kaliningrad Oblast administration never made such statements. On the contrary, the leader of the region executive authority has frequently stated that Kaliningrad Oblast unquestionably belongs to Russia and that there is no possibility of the oblast changing its territorial status. It was the initiative of an administration head to amend the draft decree "On the Kaliningrad Oblast Status" with a separate paragraph stating that our oblast is an integral part of Russia. The head of the oblast administration is convinced that the issue of the Kaliningrad Oblast territorial status does not exist: The oblast is and will remain an integral part of the Russian Federation.

One can only regret that PRAVDA is spreading such false rumors. In connection with this publication, the head of the oblast administration feels justified in bringing up the matter with other authorities, including the judiciary.

Border Guard Chief on Control, Economic Zone

WS1309123093 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with Colonel Vladislav Ivanovich Prokhoda, chief of staff of the Kaliningrad group of border troops, by S. Antonov, under the "Pressing Interview" rubric; place and date not given: "Border Interests Under Free Economic Zone Conditions"]

[Text] On 2 September, we will mark a year since the Russian president signed a decree "On Creating a Red Banner Kaliningrad Group of Border Troops of the Russian Federation on the Oblast Territory." Colonel V. I. Prokhoda, chief of staff of the Kaliningrad group of border troops, is talking about the key results of their activities and problems demanding immediate resolution.

[Antonov] Vladislav Ivanovich, what has the Kaliningrad group of border troops managed to achieve during their first year of existence?

[Prokhoda] First of all, we have fulfilled the key task: On the basis of the disbanded Baltic border district units, we have built a professionally trained group of border troops capable of defending Russia's interests, and at the same time those of Kaliningrad Oblast on the state borders with Poland and Lithuania, in territorial waters, and the Baltic Sea economic zone. The strength and effectiveness of the border defenses will grow in accordance with the completion of the settling of our units at their permanent bases. Alongside other tasks, this will allow us to build a tight barrier against the "laundering" of fuel, lubricants, rare and nonferrous metals, and the exports of food and other material assets. This will also impede drug imports and criminals' migration. The effectiveness of our actions will largely depend on help received from the local population; leaders of departments, enterprises, and institutions; as well as local authorities.

Speaking of definite results of our service in terms of figures, during our first six months of operation, the border and customs control detained smuggled goods worth more than 200 million rubles. This includes five tonnes of nonferrous metals and 24 tonnes of fuel and lubricants seized at places other than border crossings. Our service prevented the entry of 324 people with improper documents across the Russian-Lithuanian border. During that same period, the troops detained 47 border trespassers, among whom 37 and 10 tried to illegally cross to foreign countries and Russia, respectively.

[Antonov] Who are these people who are trying to cross the state border illegally, and what consequences can they expect?

[Prokhoda] The contingent of trespassers is quite colorful. These are people who are trying to avoid criminal responsibility for offenses committed in the oblast, smugglers, and those seeking better living conditions abroad. We can also find adventurers and people who like spicy sensations. The number of attempts by groups to cross the border have increased recently. We are preparing to prevent this from behind the lines, if you will, by vigorously searching for accomplices among the local population. We treat each trespasser individually. Depending on the circumstances of a crime, we either hand offenders over to the border troops of a respective state or institute legal proceedings against them, or limit ourselves to administrative measures.

The problem of trespassers from Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Near East is particularly acute. Their influx into our oblast with the purpose of illegal emigration to the West is growing. It is no accident that citizens of the so-called "Third World" account for half of all detainees. By the way, this problem is typical of all Baltic countries, and we are trying to institute joint action with their border services on a basis of mutual benefit.

In my opinion, certain problems concerning border violations on the territory of the Kaliningrad group of border troops will be resolved with more success after the law of the Russian Federation "On the Status of Kaliningrad Oblast" is adopted. The specific geopolitical situation of the oblast requires more efficient and unconventional solutions in protecting its interests as an integral part of the Russian Federation. This concerns not only the border policy with regard to prospects for a free economic zone in the oblast, but also the possibility of applying independent legal measures for offenses.

[Antonov] Is there a high probability that trespassers will cross the state border unnoticed?

[Prokhoda] It is actually slight on the border with Poland, which depends not only on the presence of special technical facilities there, but also on an agreement with Polish border troops on joint action in border defense. I can say that the border there is guarded on two levels.

We have certain difficulties on the border with Lithuania due to insufficient facilities at our border control posts and commanders' offices. However, we are trying to offset them with close cooperation between the bodies of customs control and police, as well as the strengthening of business relations with Lithuania's border service.

[Antonov] What current problems are the most urgent for the Kaliningrad border troops?

[Prokhoda] There are many. However, I would like to dwell on one of them in particular. I am speaking about the immediate implementation in Kaliningrad Oblast of the law "On the State Border of the Russian Federation" that the Supreme Soviet adopted on 1 April taking account of the president's amendments. The new law lists the rights, commitments, and obligations in the sphere of border defense granted not only to border troops, but also to the bodies of legislative and executive powers, the Armed Forces, the Interior Ministry, local self-governments, enterprises, offices, organizations, and people residing in border areas. Frankly, this law is universal because it embraces everyone. Given the border conditions of our oblast, this law acquires particular significance. The law was published in the 4 May issue of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

The session of the Oblast Soviet is planning to adopt a resolution concerning this law, and we have presented our proposals to the oblast administration regarding the introduction and maintenance of a border regime on the territory of Kaliningrad Oblast. We are interested in informing the population and having a public debate on this issue. Following the principles of the law "On the State Border," we have proposed the creation of a 5-kilometer-wide zone along the border or river banks, shores of lakes and water reservoirs, and islands situated there. We have also proposed that this area include certain settlements in the Bagrationovsk, Pravdinsk, Ozersk, Nesterov, Krasnoznamensk, Nemansk, and Slavsk regions situated up to 5 kilometers away from the border, and also the Curonian and Vistula Spits from the state frontier to the administrative borders of the towns of Zelenogradsk and Baltiysk. In our project, we have left the remaining areas of the Baltic Sea, the Kaliningrad and Curonian Bay coastal areas outside the border zone, and confined ourselves to control of a 5-km-wide water zone in this bay along the state border. We have proposed that Russian citizens permanently residing in the border area have entry into this zone on the basis of their passports or other identity and residence documents. For other citizens, we propose the introduction of a system of personal or group passes issued by border troops on the basis of personal applications or requests by enterprises, offices, and organizations.

Within the border zone, we plan to introduce a border regime concerning citizens' presence; economic, mining, extracting, and other activities; and use of the waters of the Baltic Sea, the Kaliningrad and Curonian Bays, border rivers and lakes, including the cargoes, use, and access of small ships to these waters.

In August, the Oblast Soviet worked on a respective draft resolution. The adoption of such a resolution would considerably reinforce the defense of the state border.

Border troops are concerned with upgrading the responsibility of leaders of enterprises and organizations for maintaining order in border areas. We count on the help of the people residing in these areas. Eventually, we hope to restore all the good that has for decades united efforts in securing the interests of our state on the border.

[Antonov] Are there any plans to introduce contract service in border troops?

[Prokhoda] Yes, there are. Contracts may be concluded for three years and later extended as one wishes. One can familiarize oneself with the terms of contract service

both in Kaliningrad, at 15 Suvorov Street, and at our units in Chernyakhovsk, Baltiysk, Sovetsk, Nesterov, Bagrationovsk, and Ozersk. We need men and women who are loyal to Russia, have high moral and psychological values, are physically well-built, and meet the requirements of border service.

Oil, Gas Workers' Issue Strike Ultimatum

PM1309154793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Untitled Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS roundup under the general heading "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"]

[Text] The heads of administration and representatives of the regional trade union organizations and labor collectives of the cities of Nadym, Noyabrsk, and Novyy Urengoy, and Purovskiy Rayon have presented the government with a choice: Either it compensates the oil and gas workers for the debt for hydrocarbon raw materials, which stands at 500 billion rubles, before 1 October or else the entire region will go on strike.

A telegram containing this ultimatum was sent to the Russian Council of Ministers yesterday.

Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk Challenge Electricity Edict

PM1009131593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Valeriy Zenkov report: "Constitutional Court Shares Out the Kilowatts"]

[Text] Yesterday the Russian Federation Constitutional Court began its examination of a petition from Irkutsk Oblast and Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviets and a group of Russian people's deputies on the constitutionality of the Russian president's edict "On the Organization of the Management of the Russian Federation's Electricity Complex in Conditions of Privatization" dated 15 August 1992.

The court session was addressed by Viktor Ignatenko and Vyacheslav Novikov, chairmen of Irkutsk Oblast Soviet and Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet respectively. They believe that the main reason for examining the case is the vagueness in the demarcation of ownership between the Russian Federation and the oblasts and krays as components of the Federation.

The Irkutsk Oblast Soviet and Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet believe that by retaining the state's shares in Russia's "Energetika i Elektrifikatsiya" Joint-Stock Company as exclusively federal property, the president's edict excludes the oblast and kray from the management of enterprises in the electricity complex and disregards the interests of the people living there.

Yuriy Shafranik, Russian fuel and energy minister and the president's representative, insists that the edict is constitutional and sees the efficient management of the electricity complex as the sole cause of contention.

The court is due to hear the opinions of six experts to ascertain what the federal energy system is like and whether there are ownership demarcations between the Federation and its components.

This legal dispute has been caused by the lack of a document to comprehensively divide ownership between the federation and the regions. This in turn is being delayed by the state privatization program for this year, and the government is doing its level best to avoid discussing that program in parliament.

Aide Denies Ethnic Reasons Behind Stavropol Evictions

PM1309122193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Gritchin report: "Cossack Action To Evict Armenians Authorized by Authorities for First Time"]

[Text] Stavropol—Around 500 Georgiyevskiy Rayon Cossacks arrived at Krasnokumskoye village last Sunday at dawn to forcibly evict 12 families whom the village administration's administrative commission had ordered to leave the population center by 1 September.

Dividing into 20 detachments, each of which was escorted by a militiaman, the Cossacks went to the relevant addresses. The frightened people, prepared for a tragic outcome, received their uninvited guests. Fortunately, the house-to-house tour, accompanied by a passport inspection, ended without "practical conclusions." Some of the families had time to leave the village, the others, unthinkably, to register (despite the very strict ban on registration).

"The administrative commission had found 72 unregistered families in Krasnokumskoye," S. Ponomarenko, deputy head of the Georgiyevsk and Georgiyevskiy Rayon Administration and city headman, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent. "The bulk of them were Armenians. Some 52 families had been fined for violating passport procedure and all had been ordered to leave the village. Only four had left by the prescribed time. We included on the first list for forcible eviction those who had been seen to behave in hooligan fashion or to perpetrate other breaches of public order and lead a parasitical way of life."

When asked how the actions taken by the Cossacks and the local authorities square with the law on freedom of relocation, the deputy head of administration expressed the hope that "relocation will be restricted" in the Caucasus conservation-spa region of Mineralnyye Vody, which includes Georgiyevskiy Rayon.

Commenting at your IZVESTIYA correspondent's request on the conflict in Krasnokumskoye, S. Popov, head of the kray administration's interethnic relations

department, said that purely interethnic conflicts are not behind it. In some areas of the kray, particularly in the Caucasus Mineralnyye Vody, refugees—Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and other nationalities—are massing in chaotic fashion. The population centers' infrastructure is not designed to cope with an influx of people from outside. Hence the conflicts. In his opinion, a clash could just as likely have arisen in Krasnokumskoye between Cossacks and Siberians had several thousand of the latter come to the village.

Conversion at Voronezh Mechanical Plant Viewed

PM1009085993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1245 GMT 6 Sep 93

[By Vera Kotsyuba from Voronezh Mechanical Plant; from the "Business in Russia" program]

[Excerpts] [Vera Kotsyuba] In the heat of the political battles and economic processes which are not easily analyzed, the topic of conversion has receded into the background, as it were, in recent months. Nonetheless, hundreds of defense complex enterprises are, in very difficult conditions, resolving the problem of adapting to the new realities of the market. Our video report today is devoted to one such enterprise—the Voronezh Mechanical Plant. [Video of Buran on launch pad, launch, flight, and landing interspersed with newspaper clippings about this achievement over music.]

[Unidentified correspondent over exterior, interior of Voronezh Mechanical Plant] This is the Voronezh Mechanical Plant. For decades only a few leaders in Moscow and the local workforce knew what was being produced within its walls. The plant's main output was top secret. It was propulsion units for our space rockets. Now only memories remain of those difficult and yet—on the workers' own admission—extremely interesting times when they did not leave the workshops for weeks on endas they carried out government orders.

For several years now, work in the plant's main field—space equipment—has been constantly cut back, and while in the recent past this work accounted for 70 percent of total volume, it now stands at only eight percent.

A sad souvenir of the former glory and greatness of our space industry are these four engines for the Energiya launch vehicle which put the Buran into near-Earth orbit. They have been standing around in this production unit for the past two years—forgotten and of no use to anyone.

[V. Birkin, Voronezh Mechanical Plant first deputy chief engineer over video of production facilities] The most polite word I can think of to describe the situation in our space industry is muddle.

We are used to referring to experts from other countries instead of using our own brains and talent. In this connection I can say that no country in the world that is involved in space exploration has cut back its program. On the contrary they are developing and perfecting their programs. At present, for some reason, this is considered unnecessary only in Russia. The Russian space program is being cut back; no work is being done to advance it. In my opinion, the future will punish us for this negligence and punish us very painfully.

[Correspondent over video of production equipment] Unique equipment is standing idle. It is not suitable for anything else. Research is also being cut back. For example, whereas four or five unique technologies were developed at the plant per year in the past, it is now just one at best, and that takes several years.

However, the main loss is the people. No, practically no one has left. The people who work here are patriots, but instead of highly sophisticated operations which demand the utmost skill, they are now tightening nuts and bolts. As a rule it takes eight to ten years to train specialists like these. If this situation is allowed to persist, the existing potential to preserve the standards of a high-tech enterprise can be maintained for a couple of years or so. After that a downhill slide is inevitable. The situation where the country is ceding the few leading positions which it still holds is not blamed on conversion as such here. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, conversion itself did not catch the plant's workforce unprepared. They had been thinking about it for a long time and, when it came, they knew what needed to be changed, what goods they would produce, and what needed to be done if specific situations arose. Here is an illustrative detail—the plant has already undergone two conversions. During the first stage a 65-percent conversion was carried out in line with a target set from above. Following that, taking account of the situation which had taken shape, another 50-percent conversion was carried out, and that despite the fact that according to U.S. specialist estimates, a conversion of more than 15 percent spells the death of an enterprise.

Instead of the production of primitive household utensils which many defense complex enterprises started up, preference was given here to high-tech output. Vacuum mincers for the meat-processing industry, for example. The history of the development of this output is highly indicative of the confused times of our switch to the market. The government, experiencing a shortage of this type of equipment, purchased a license for the production of these mincers from the West German company (?Kraemer-Grieber) and also acquired the blades for these mincers. All this cost the state a pretty sum of money in dollars. The plant mastered the production of this equipment. Subsequently it emerged that the German machines were unsuitable in our conditions. Their dimensions and consequently their capacity were unsuitable for Russian meat combines suffering from meat shortages. So the plant developed its own mincer which was five times smaller, and manufactured the appropriate blades. The end product was much better than the German machine, as the Germans readily

admitted. Here is a small example: The German machine takes 8-10 minutes to make sausage meat, while ours only takes six minutes. The problem is that our mincers were in demand until price liberalization set in in January 1992. After that most of our clients became insolvent. The high quality of the vacuum mincers produced at the Voronezh Mechanical Plant enables this equipment to operate for decades without repairs or replacements. This turned out to the plant's disadvantage. A similar fate has befallen dough-kneeding and sausage-making machines designed at the plant.

Pressure chambers are another example of the plant's conversion output. They are compact, safe, autonomous, and do not require a high skill level to use them. Until 1992 they were in great demand; up to 150 items per year were sold. Orders exceeded the plant's capacity threefold. Just like many other goods produced at the plant, the pressure chambers are unequaled in the world as regards quality. They are fail-safe. Of the 500 pressure chambers delivered to various medical establishments, not one has malfunctioned so far. But the price liberalization was the stumbling block. For many months now 80 pressure chambers have been waiting for their eager, but alas insolvent, purchasers. And so all this unique output, which is so badly needed in Russia, has to wait until enterprises have some money and can afford to buy all these goods. Meanwhile those who can buy this type of equipment right now are only to be envied.

People at the Voronezh Mechanical Plant are thinking about providing equipment not just for individual enterprises but whole sectors of industry. The oil and gas industry, for example. They began in a small way several years ago. Now they are moving toward 2ll-out production of this type of equipment. This is an important task in view of the fact that the only enterprises producing this equipment are located in Baku and Groznyy and are, for well-known reasons, no longer our partners. More than $2 billion are spent annually to purchase this equipment abroad. With the full backing of the Gazprom, the plant is planning fully to meet the needs of the Russian oil and gas complex by 1996. The plant's technological and production potential makes this entirely feasible. If only funding can be found!

For the time being the producers of domestic gas cookers are those who are busiest at the plant. This is because at the moment gas cookers are the commodity which enables the plant to survive and wait for better times to come.

International Affairs

Incident at Weapons Store; Russian Nuclear Experts Called

PM1309153093 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 1

["Own information" report: "Let's Hope They Don't Land Themselves in Trouble..."]

[Text] It has become known to the editorial office that on Sunday 12 September a group of experts from the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy and the Russian Federation Defense Ministry flew to a nuclear-technical unit stationed on Ukrainian territory. The group includes chief designers and developers [razrabotchiki] of nuclear munitions. The Russian nuclear experts were invited by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

The reason: In the unit's storage facilities there had been a change in temperature conditions for the storage of nuclear munitions which are currently being removed from combat status by Ukrainian specialists. It has not been confirmed that it was the nuclear munitions that caused the original change in the temperature parameters, but the experts from Russia have already noted a gross violation of norms for the storage of nuclear munitions in this technical unit's storage facilities. The munitions considerably exceed the established norms, and this led to a sharp increase in background radiation, which became unsafe for the health of service personnel.

It is well known that the Russian Federation Defense Ministry has repeatedly and persistently proposed that nuclear munitions be relocated from Ukrainian territory to Russia, and that the nuclear safety situation thereby be normalized. However, these proposals have gone unanswered. Political ambition prevailed.

Sunday's incident is seen as the first and highly serious warning sign. Let us hope it does not become an alarm signal.

Deputy Confident Sevastopol To Become Russian

LD1309215393 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Sevastopol—On 12 September, the official in charge of the constitutional commission, Russian People's Deputy Oleg Rumyantsev, was there at the invitation of leaders of Sevastopol's branch of the National Salvation Front. Meeting activists from Sevastopol's pro-Russian organizations, he said that the Russian Supreme Soviet was working at the issue of a possibility for Russia to finance the Black Sea Fleet. He pointed out that in the event of the fleet being transferred to the jurisdiction of Russia, Sevastopol's 68,000 residents would not become unemployed.

Rumyantsev said he was convinced that the forthcoming Congress of People's Deputies in Russia would introduce amendments into the Constitution on the status of Sevastopol as a Russian city.

No Threat From Russia To Cut Energy Supplies

LD1309121493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Some of Russia's mass media have circulated reports that the delivery of energy sources to Ukraine will be suspended because of Ukraine's debt in this field. As the press service of the state committee for oil and gas told a correspondent of the Novyny TV and radio agency today, no official document confirming this information has come from Russia. At the same time, it was noted that a search was under way for ways to settle the debt with Russia. In particular, the committee has asked the government to give it preferential credits to settle the debt.

Black Sea Fleet Halts Supplies to Ukrainian Navy

LD1309211593 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Sevastopol—A UNIAN correspondent has learned from trustworthy sources that Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin has ordered the suspension of all supplies to units of the Ukrainian Navy deployed in the Crimea. The same sources say that the Black Sea Fleet Financial Directorate has received instructions to raise the fleet personnel's wages 1.8 times as of 1 September. Money will be payable in karbovantsi, as recalculated in accordance with the Ukrainian National Bank exchange rate.

Yaroslavl Residents Invite Kravchuk, Yeltsin To Meet

LD1309180793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today met a delegation from the Russian Federation's Yaroslavl Oblast. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] President Kravchuk was invited to visit Yaroslavl to attend the opening of the monument to Prince Yaroslav in mid-October. Thus, a meeting may take place between the presidents of two Slavic peoples, since Boris Yeltsin has accepted exactly the same sort of invitation.

The invitation was passed to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who read an excerpt from the text at the request of journalists.

[Begin Kravchuk recording, reading invitation in Russian] Leonid Makarovich: The residents of Yaroslavl would like to invite you and Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to come to the opening of the monument to Prince Yaroslav in October, not only to pay homage to the grand prince, who did so much to establish and strengthen Kievan Russia and its prosperity, but also to

hold the required working negotiations. Our opinion is that a meeting like this between the presidents of two Slavic states in the city, named after Yaroslav the Wise, would be profoundly symbolic, quite constructive and fruitful. [end recording]

[Correspondent] But even at today's meeting, specific mechanisms of both cooperation and settlement of existing financial obstacles by way of clearing and some other issues of cooperation between regions were discussed. [passage omitted]

So, this is exactly what Kravchuk said: I support this position. Make arrangements with the Cabinet of Ministers and, if necessary, adopt a document which would link us directly—one region with the other, i.e. Yaroslavl with Cherkassy and Zhitomir. [passage omitted]

Black Sea Fleet in 'Line of Fire'

PM1009162993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 2

[Pavel Shinkarenko commentary: "The Ships of the Black Sea Squadron Have Once Again Found Themselves in the Line of Fire"]

[Text] A week has gone by since the Crimea summit, and the joint commission which was instructed to look into the necessary issues on the handover to Russia of the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea Fleet within a month has not even set a date to meet. Who is slowing down this process?

"Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a directive instructing us to conduct talks with the Ukrainian side," special envoy Yuriy Dubinin, leader of the Russian Federation state delegation at talks with Ukraine, told me. "The task is a major one: Many new aspects have emerged which have to be interpreted."

Meanwhile the Black Sea Fleet has "moved into the line of fire." New people are getting drawn into the discussion about it. Some see the results of the summit as an indisputable victory for the Russian president, others interpret them as a kind of "peace of Brest-Litovsk" [World War I Bolshevik truce with Germany] or "breathing space" won by official Kiev to give it a free hand to resolve domestic problems. [Ukrainian President] Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk] himself gave rise to false interpretations when he stated on his return from the Crimea: "Ukraine has not sold the fleet. That is not what happened. No decision on this issue has been adopted." Although he had in his briefcase a protocol which unequivocally speaks of the future unification of both parts of the Black Sea Fleet under Russia's jurisdiction. Only the total compensation and the terms for leasing coastal buildings and basing areas have yet to be determined.

Yet Leonid Kravchuk's political maneuver does not seem to have achieved its aim. Following the speeches made by leaders of the Ukrainian People's Movement and other national-patriotic and opposition parties and movements, demanding the resignation of the "traitor president," even the Supreme Soviet intends to get involved in this campaign. According to Deputy Igor Derkach, one of the leaders of the parliamentary commission for defense and security, the agreement on the transfer of the Ukrainian part of the fleet to Russia is a serious violation of the Constitution and the presidential oath, for which Leonid Kravchuk should be removed from his post. Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov also caused turmoil when he stated 6 September that he disagreed with the president on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet. He also stated that this question must be discussed at the Defense Council and submitted to the Supreme Soviet for ratification.

More accurate assessments have also appeared. You have to pay for independence. Many politicians, including parliamentarians, understand this truth. They do not see any direct legal grounds for the impeachment procedure which the opposition is demanding, and they assess the "Black Sea wave" raised as no more than its attempt to achieve its own petty party interests. The Crimea agreements are a realistic way of resolving the problem of the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol, and the least painful way. Thus, having approved the actions taken by Yeltsin and Kravchuk to preserve the fleet, the Coordination Council of the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assemblies warned: "The provocative buildup of forces in Crimea and around Sevastopol by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry could lead to armed conflict." Workers at the shipbuilding enterprises were optimistic, believing that Russia, unlike Ukraine, will find the money to repair the warships. Crimean politicians are sure that once the problems of the fleet and the economic problems are resolved, the possibility will emerge of reaching a compromise on the problems of the whole peninsula, and thus relations between Ukraine and Russia as a whole can be normalized.

It is clear that Leonid Kravchuk's decision on the Black Sea Fleet was forced and was adopted under the pressure of objective economic difficulties. Particularly since Ukraine does not need as many ships as it is being allocated. "We nevertheless have to sell," he said. "If we were richer, then we would be talking differently."

The reality is as follows. According to Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers figures, the debt owed by enterprises in the republic's state petroleum and gas committee to the Russian "Gazprom" exceeds 706 billion rubles [R], and this sum is growing daily. The government has therefore demanded that all debtors immediately settle their debts with their partners, otherwise the supply of fuel will be discontinued as of 14 September. Given that Turkmenia—the other supplier of natural gas to Ukraine—has already turned off its faucets, then you can imagine the abyss that the country could fall into if Leonid Kravchuk's government follows the nationalist-patriots and rejects Russia's offer.

Crimea Worried by Black Sea Fleet Accords

PM1409102393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Sep 93

[By Vladimir Plotnikov and Vadim Kelichev from Crimea; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Plotnikov over video of warship] In a cable addressed to Leonid Kravchuk, Boris Yeltsin, Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Ivan Plyushch, Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, expresses gratitude for the breakthrough achieved at the interstate talks on the fate of the fleet. At officers assemblies the results of these talks are being seen as the long-awaited end to the uncertain status of the Black Sea Fleet.

[Igor Shklyar, deputy chairman of the Coordinating Council of Officers Assemblies] We welcome the clear-cut stance of the Russian president and the Russian defense minister, who said firmly that the fleet, the Russian Fleet under the St. Andrew's flag, will carry out its tasks in the interests of all the friendly Slav peoples, defending their southern borders. We fully agree with this.

[Plotnikov over video of map] As for the official Crimean and Sevastopol authorities, they are satisfied that their viewpoint was taken into account at the talks on the fleet. Almost 90 percent of the fleet is based in the Crimea. Keeping it undivided and ensuring reliable funding will address such important problems as the provision of social guarantees for servicemen and their families, jobs for the local population, and the further development of cities and villages.

At the same time, the explanation that no decisions have yet been made on the fleet, that there are only recommendations to be studied by a joint Russian-Ukrainian commission before the end of September, has evoked disillusionment in Sevastopol and the Crimea as a whole.

Indian-Ukrainian Joint Business Council Meets

LD1109101193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0914 GMT 11 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Zaytsev]

[Text] New Delhi September 11 TASS—The Government of India attaches primary importance to the development of trade and economic relations with the CIS countries, Tejinder Khanna, secretary of the Indian Ministry of Trade, said at a meeting of the Indian-Ukrainian Joint Council for Business Cooperation here on Friday evening [10 September].

India intends to considerably increase the trade turnover with the CIS countries by broadening bilateral relations with each of the republics of the former Soviet Union. The representative of the Ministry of Trade called upon Indian businessmen to use the favourable economic situation at the CIS vast market and more actively establish contacts with partners from the friendly states.

According to official data which have just been published here, trade of India with the CIS countries has begun to gradually increase as against a slump period in 1991-1993. Only in April-May of 1993 Indian exports to the Commonwealth reached 4 billion rupees as against 3.5 billion rupees in 1992. Imports from the CIS countries during these two months of the current financial year rose up to 1.4 billion rupees as against 661 million rupees in 1992.

Zlenko, New German Ambassador Discuss Ties

WS1409113193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] On 13 September, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko received newly appointed German Ambassador to Ukraine (Alexander Arnold). In the course of a friendly conversation, the officials discussed several issues of bilateral relations, that are of mutual interest, and prospects for further development of contacts between Germany and Ukraine.

Pro-USSR Parties in Crimea Hold Conference

LD1309224193 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1521 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Simferopol, 13 Sep—The idea of the restoration of the USSR and the integration of the Crimea within it has united around 15 parties and public movements of radical orientation under red banners. The majority of participants in a conference, held by them, spoke in favor of the Crimea first declaring its independence and then becoming part of Russia in order together to seek expansion of the latter's borders to extend to the boundaries of the former Soviet Union.

The conference elected its delegates to a congress of peoples of the USSR, which is to be convened in Moscow on 20 September to restore the [Soviet] Union. The Crimean Communist Party is also delegating its independently elected representatives to the congress.

National Affairs

Presidential Press Service Rejects Kravchuk Rumors

LD1309195993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The Ukrainian president's press service has passed to the mass media some material, in particular, about all sorts of rumors, disseminated recently by some of the press agencies and primarily those in a neighboring state, with the clear purpose of morally discrediting the Ukrainian president. Now they are on personal dachas built in Switzerland and on mythical ties with a

well known millionaire from Texas, to whom all the licences for the supply of oil (?to) Ukraine will be sold, and so on.

It is not surprising that some Ukrainian politicians are attempting to make their contribution to this dirty matter. At a recent news conference, for example, NRU [People's Movement of Ukraine] Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil resorted, in particular, to relating to those present rumors, borrowed by him from Russian newspapers, about the company Siabeco and clandestine commercial operations abroad, which the Ukrainian president has absolutely nothing to do with.

Well known in history, the use of concoctions as a method of political struggle has never been successful, yet, since normal people only find this disdainful and disgusting, it is noted in the material prepared by the Ukrainian president's press service.

National Salvation Committee Warns of Armed Struggle

LD1309222193 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Lvov—A few days ago, the Extraordinary Committee for the Salvation of the Nation and State [Nadzvychaynyy Komitet Poryatunku Natsiyi ta Derzhavy] was formed. In particular, the Committee is composed of leaders of the Ukrainian Social National Party, the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party, the Ukrainian Officers Union's Lvov Oblast branch, the "Volya" [Freedom] independent trade union, "Prosvita" [Education, Enlightenment] Society's oblast branch, and other organizations.

The Committee has made an appeal which calls for "preventing every structure of state power from selling our independence." The committee deems it necessary "to declare pre-strike readiness and to prepare for actions of civic disobedience."

The Committee also warns that, "in the event of the Ukrainian Supreme Council continuing its anti-national activities, it is possible that detachments of people will be formed and preparations will begin for armed struggle for the independence of Ukraine."

State Purchases Over 13 Million Tonnes of Grain by 13 Sep

WS1409112893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] As of 13 September, Ukrainian farmers had sold 13,109,000 tonnes of grain, including 7,748,000 tonnes of wheat. The state order is 14.5 million tonnes. This has been reported by the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture.

Belarus

Congress of People of Belarus Begins Work

LD1109170093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1233 GMT 11 Sep 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Klyuchnikova]

[Text] Minsk, 11 Sep—The Congress of the People of Belarus [Kongres Naroda Belarusi] began its work today. It has been convened at the intiative of public associations which make up the Belarus People's Movement. The main issue on the agenda is the economic and sociopolitical situation in the republic and finding a way out of the crisis.

Sergey Gaydukevich, chairman of the People's Movement, said that the main reason for all the calamities befalling the people of Belarus is the disintegration of the USSR. He thinks the only way out of this situation is to restore the single state and strengthen soviet power.

Over 1,300 delegates representing various organizations of the republic, including 18 parties of communist orientation, are taking part in the congress.

Representatives of the embassies of China, Korea, India, Vietnam, and Yugoslavia are guests of the congress.

The congress is to finish its work today.

Urges Single State in Ex-USSR

LD1309143193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Klyuchnikova for TASS]

[Text] Minsk September 13 TASS—Participants in the Congress of the Belarusian People which was held at the weekend in Minsk, called for the creation of a single state within the frame of the former Soviet Union. The call was supported by guests from Russia: Parliamentarians led by Sergey Baburin, representatives of the Russian Communist Party, the Council of the Union of Communist Parties—CPSU, and the chairman of the Russian National Assembly, Aleksandr Sterligov.

The congress adopted a declaration recognizing necessary "the strengthening of the political basis of the state—Soviet power—as a form of genuine democracy in line with national traditions and the interests of the overwhelming majority of the republic's population. They called for "banning violence and discrimination in the language policy" and for the transition to official bilingualism.

Delegates to the congress, including fifty Belarusian people's deputies, said it was necessary to put off the adoption of a new constitution until "the social, political and economic situation stabilises."

Three additional resolutions were worked out in the course of the congress, one of which called for the resignation of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus Stanislav Shushkevich.

World Bank Official Meets Press, Discusses Reforms

WS1409074393 Minsk RID in Russian 0140 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Report by Tatyana Shchebet: "A Program of Reforms Has Undergone Some Changes"]

[Text] A World Bank representative has named the exact date of discussions on the Belarusian reform program at the World Bank.

On 10 September, at the Belarusian National press center, Mr. Basil Kovalski, chairman of the Fourth Regional Department at the World Bank dealing with East Europe, held a press conference with journalists.

Mr. Kovalski said that when the World Bank was discussing the Belarusian reform program it introduced several proposals including, in particular, the revision of import duties, a reduction of price controls, the adoption of antimonopoly laws, and several other suggestions concerned with speeding up the privatization process in Belarus.

According to the Memorandum on Mutual Understanding between the Belarusian Government and the World Bank, this program of reforms will again be discussed at an upcoming consultation meeting in Paris on 27 September.

Moldova

Stalemate on Dniester Region Continues

PM1409085193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 3

[Nikolay Mayorov report: "Stumbling Block. Talks on Dniester Region's Special Status Are Producing No Results"]

[Text] The recent meeting in Moscow between Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur is a further reminder of the "problem of the Dniester Region." As we know, the Russian delegation at the talks once more emphasized that the question of the withdrawal from Moldova of the 14th Army, which is still the main stabilizing factor in the region, cannot be examined before the Left Bank is granted a special political and economic status. What kind of status should this be? This is the "stumbling block" on the path to lasting peace along the Dniester's banks. As we know, Tiraspol is insisting on a confederative structure for Moldova, while Chisinau categorically objects to this. It is not impossible that the Moldovan Parliament, in opposing the republic's entry into the

CIS, fears above all the support which the Tiraspol leaders may receive from the Commonwealth republics.

The hardline stance of a number of Chisinau politicians receives a positive assessment in Bucharest. Mircea Dzhoane [surname as transliterated], an official Foreign Ministry representative, stated this. He said that this decision "should reorient Moldova away from the east toward the west and assist the two Romanian states' economic and spiritual integration." The Romanian foreign policy department's representative noted that Bucharest officials fear a repeat vote in the Moldovan Parliament on the question of joining the CIS or the dissolution of the present organ of legislative power. Despite the power crisis in Moldova, the Romanian Foreign Ministry considers it expedient to keep the present parliament, "in which the disposition of forces allows the democratically inclined opposition to play a noticeable political role."

The problem of the Dniester Region can be resolved only with the assistance of international organizations and the resumption of the work of the four-party commission involving Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania. Nicolae Chirtoake, the Moldovan president's adviser on military matters, stated this when speaking on Moldovan radio. However, he thinks that "it is scarcely possible to achieve anything in dialogue with the Dniester Region's leaders."

N. Chirtoake regards as the main achievement the agreement on the Dniester Region signed by Moldovan and Russian Presidents Mircea Snegur and Boris Yeltsin exactly a year ago, the cease-fire, the creation of a security zone, and the introduction of peacekeeping forces into the conflict zone. At the same time he noted that "the policy of certain circles in Russia with regard to the Dniester Region shows a logic based on ensuring a military-political presence."

For his part, Aleksandr Karaman, vice president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, stated that the Moldovan Parliament's adoption of a decision not to ratify the agreement on the republic's entry into the CIS does not extend to the Dniester Region. "This is an internal matter for the Republic of Moldova," he said in an interview. "We remain in the ruble zone and intend to strengthen our economic ties with the CIS countries."

A. Karaman refused to comment on the critical situation which has developed in the Moldovan Parliament, which is on the verge of dissolution. He merely said that if parliamentary elections are held to Moldova's supreme organ of legislative power, the Dniester Region's inhabitants will not participate in them. "We have an effective Supreme Soviet in Tiraspol and do not consider it expedient to take part in electing a neighboring state's organ of legislative power," the Dniester Republic's vice president emphasized.

On the subject of the proposals made by agrarian deputies in the Moldovan Parliament to reserve seats in the new parliament for representatives of the Dniester Region and hold by-elections once the political status of the Dniester Region within Moldova has been determined, A. Karaman said that it will only be possible to talk about this after this status has been determined. "But for the moment the present Moldovan Parliament has repeatedly shown its inability to solve acute political questions, and it is hard to say whether the new organ of power will be any better than its predecessor," A. Karaman observed.

In the meantime the talks on the status of the Dniester Region which are in progress in Bendery have not yet had any tangible result. In the opinion of Left Bank delegation leader A. Volkova, the Moldovan delegation does not have a clear idea of how to conduct the talks and is adopting a wait-and-see policy in connection with events in Russia in the hope of isolating the Dniester Moldovan Republic in the future. According to a statement by A. Volkova, the Dniester Region's leadership does not object to mediation efforts by UN and CSCE representatives in the talks, but is against resuming the work of the four-party commission involving Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania, as this commission's work was ineffective before.

Recently the Dniester Region's Supreme Soviet asked the Russian Federation president and the Russian parliament to recognize the Dniester Moldovan Republic "as an autonomous entity in international law." The document emphasizes that "in view of the will of the people of the Dniester Moldovan Republic as expressed in referendums and elections, we ask you to include this question on the agenda of the Russian Federation parliament's session." In the opinion of the message's authors, the Dniester Republic "was created in full compliance with Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 1 of the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights." Therefore, they consider, "there are no objective reasons not to recognize it."

Gagauzia intends to seek admission to the CIS, Petr Zavrichko, chairman of the self-proclaimed republic's State Administration for Foreign Affairs, stated. He said that at the meeting between Gagauz President Stepan Topal and Russian Federation Ambassador to Moldova Boris Plechko, the Gagauz leadership openly stated its desire to join the CIS since it has "close and vitally necessary ties with Russia."

On the political situation in Moldova, P. Zavrichko noted that there had been a negative reaction in Gagauzia to the Chisinau parliament's refusal to ratify the Almaty agreements on forming the Commonwealth. "We consider," he said, "that, in view of today's realities, Moldova should be within the CIS."

Defense Minister Leaves on Visit to Turkey

LD1409100693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0855 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Moldova's defense minister, Major General Pavel Creanga, left for Istanbul today on an official visit at the invitation of the Turkish Defense Ministry.

During his visit, Pavel Creanga will discuss with Turkey's national defense minister the problems relating to developing cooperation between the two countries. The Moldovan military delegation will also visit the international defense industry and civil aviation exhibition which opened in Ankara today.

Sangheli, World Bank Official Discuss Investments

AU1409075893 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Nicolae Mircea Nastase report from Chisinau]

[Text] The prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Andrei Sangheli, received Mr. (?Rafi Goels), department chief of the World Bank mission, today. During the talks, the two sides discussed ways and means to attract foreign financial resources in order to assist economic reforms in the Republic of Moldova. They listed some 13 countries that could invest for this purpose. The total sum, including loans granted by the IMF and the World Bank, would amount to approximately one quarter of a million dollars. To finalize negotiations, a meeting between creditors and representatives of the Republic of Moldova was scheduled to be held in Paris at the World Bank Headquarters on 26 October this year.

At the proposal of the Moldovan prime minister, a meeting was held today by the government Presidium, with the chairman of the Independent Trade Union Federation from the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Serafim Urecheanu, also participating.

During the meeting, those present decided to urgently begin negotiations aimed at improving the situation of the population after the price increase in bakery and milk products. The meeting decided that a government meeting be held on Monday, 13 September to be attended by representatives of the Independent Trade Union Federation from the Republic of Moldova and that on Tuesday, 14 September a meeting be held by the tripartite commission—government, employers, and trade unions.

Kazakhstan

Chernomyrdin Urges Economic Ties; Protocol Signed

LD1109104493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1032 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Kokchetav September 11 TASS—Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, on a visit in Kokchetav on Saturday [11 September], favoured restoration and expansion of economic ties between Russia and Kazakhstan. He spoke at talks between the government delegations of Russia and Kazakhstan held in this north-Kazakh city. The talks were also attended by the heads of administrations from neighbouring regions.

The sides signed a protocol on the results of the talks, stressing that substantial restrictions in border trade and payments for mutually delivered goods remain the most acute and outstanding issues in economic relations between the two countries.

The government delegations reached an understanding at the talks to instruct appropriate Kazakh and Russian ministries and departments to study jointly chances for mutual offsetting of debts between state-owned enterprises and submit appropriate decisions (within two weeks) for the consideration of the Russian and Kazakh Governments.

A decision was taken not to exact customs duties and taxes from exporters making mutual deliveries of goods from border regions. Russian and Kazakh customs services were instructed to take measures to implement this decision.

Russia will supply Kazakhstan with petrol, diesel fuel, diesel oil and liquified gas in September-October for the 1993 harvesting campaign. In turn, Kazakhstan will deliver 2.7 million tons of grain for the Russian Roskhleboprodukt firm by the end of 1993.

Mutual deliveries of petroproducts and grain will be made on a clearing basis, taking into account payment of debts by Kazakhstan for Russian goods worth 160 million U.S. dollars, which were delivered over the past eight months.

Nazarbayev, Chernomyrdin on Accord

LD1109132293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Russia and Kazakhstan, the two largest republics of the commonwealth, were today deciding at the top level how to arrange their economic links. Our two republics have firm economic links and there is no reason to give them up, but they must be altered in line with contemporary conditions.

[Begin recording] [Nazarbayev] It is Russia that is the primary strategic partner of the Kazakhstani people, of all the people of Kazakhstan. This must be confirmed by specific actions and the people understand this. Therefore, I consider it essential for myself at this complicated time to meet as often as possible and coordinate positions. I think that we shall have more talks in Kokchetav and at the meeting in Urlask. We shall discuss all questions about relations between our governments. Today any barriers to the movement of goods are of no advantage to either Russia or Kazakhstan.

[Reporter D. Baymbetov] There was discussion of economic integration, the creation of an economic union, the mechanism for implementing the accords reached in Moscow and Omsk, and the supply of grain to Russia.

[Chernomyrdin] It is better for us to deliver grain to the Far East from here—to supply Siberia and the Far Eastern region from here—rather than transport everything from our western regions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Czech Trade Minister Signs Trade Agreement

LD1309112393 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Vladimir Dlouhy, Czech minister of industry and trade, and Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Syzdyk Abishev signed an intergovernmental agreement on trade and economic relations in Almaty today. Vladimir Dlouhy has thus completed his trip to the Central Asian republics during which he also visited Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. According to the agreement, the Czech Republic will cooperate with Kazakhstan mainly in the fields of energy, metallurgy, agriculture, and light industry. The parties will also grant favored-nation status to each another.

Kazakhstan is of interest to our country because of its large resources of raw materials, especially oil, natural gas, and coal.

Comments on Increasing Trade

LD1409105493 Prague CTK in English 1010 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Almaty Sept 14 (CTK)—The Czech trade mission came to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan just in time, Czech Trade and Industry Minister Vladimir Dlouhy told CTK today.

Dlouhy left Prague September 8 on a week-long tour of the Central asian republics of the former Soviet Union.

The mission corrected the view that the Czech Republic was not interested in the area, said Dlouhy. It is vital for Czech companies to keep and develop the Central Asian markets because the highly negative balance of trade with Russia could be reduced this way, he added.

It is necessary to increase the role of the Czech trade sections of the diplomatic offices in Latin America, India, Africa and CIS which should more intensively support the Czech companies, said Dlouhy.

Kazakhstan is interested the Czech supplies and construction of the Yamburk gas processing plant and pipeline.

Agreement With India on Almaty-Delhi Air Link

LD1109103293 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0400 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] An agreement was signed yesteday between the republic's Transport Minister Nigmatzhan Isingarin and Ghulam Azad, India's minister of civil aviation and tourism, on establishing an air link between Almaty and Delhi. It will be operated by the Kazakhstan national civil aviation joint stock company from the middle of (?next) year.

French President's Upcoming Visit Previewed

LD1009083993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0727 GMT 10 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris September 10 TASS—France intends actively to develop cooperation with Kazakhstan. The forthcoming visit to Almaty (on September 16-17) by French President Francois Mitterrand is called upon to emphasise the confidence with which Paris looks at the future of Franco-Kazakhstan relations, Jean Musetelli, official spokesman for the president of France, said here on Thursday night at a briefing at the Elysee Palace. The briefing dealt with the French president's forthcoming tour during which he will visit Kazakhstan and South Korea.

A wide range of international problems are to be discussed during talks between Francois Mitterrand and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Almaty, Musetelli said.

Among matters that are of interest to the French side are the situation in Central Asia, the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and prospects for Kazakhstan's cooperation with Russia, particularly in the light of the recent agreement among the six ex-Soviet states on the establishment of a rouble area of a new type, the spokesman said.

The two sides are also expected to discuss disarmament, environmental protection, prospects for a settlement of conflicts in a number of ex-Soviet republics.

New Laws Approved by Supreme Soviet Presidium

LD1309180493 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] A sitting of the Supreme Kenges Presidium chaired by Serikbolsyn Abdildin has been held in Almaty. Draft laws on the use of air space and activities of aviation, publishing activities, and civil code were examined and approved. After an exchange of opinions, changes to the civil proceedings code, additions to the laws on the arbitrary courts, procedures for settling economic disputes by arbitration courts, insurance, and some other bills of the republic were also supported.

Draft laws on the Supreme Kenges of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the social protection of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who have suffered from nuclear explosions and other sources of ionising radiation, as well as changes and additions to the law on the bodies of state security of the Republic of Kazakhstan were sent to be re-examined and improved.

The Presidium adopted a resolution on renaming Dengizskiy rayon of Atyrau Oblast into Kurmangazinskiy rayon in connection with the 175th anniversary of the people's composer.

Dumping of Old Rubles Causes Problems

PM1309152393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Vladimir Ardayev article: "Kazakhstan Experiences Intervention of Old Russian Money"]

[Text] Almaty—Over the past two weeks alone the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Internal Affairs Main Administration for Combating Economic Crimes has prevented two attempts to bring into the republic large consignments of cash with a total value of almost 9 billion rubles [R]. The money is in old bills which are not valid on Russian territory but are continuing to circulate for the time being in Kazakhstan.

Among the many acute problems which Kazakhstan is experiencing today the "money question" is probably one of the most painful. It directly affects the interests of not only state structures and entrepreneurs but also all citizens of the republic.

The government is concerned about the "weight" of the Kazakhstani ruble and its actual purchasing power. Enterprises and firms are concerned about the practically completely frozen transactions with partners in other CIS states, particularly with Russian ones. Some 17 million Kazakhstanis are concerned about the irrepressible growth in the prices of food, consumer goods, and municipal services and the impossibility of leaving the confines of the republic with bills obtained here which no longer have any value anywhere. In addition, the Russian-speaking population is awaiting the introduction of a national currency with alarm and apprehension—very scary rumors about this are spreading....

Local newspapers have reported that recently "a group of people's deputies of the Republic of Kazakhstan and National Bank employees" demanded the convening of an extraordinary Supreme Council session to discuss the question of introducing a national currency. Such a slogan—"Let's have a national currency!"—really is heard occasionally in the Kazakhstani parliament, and sentiments in favor of the tenge (the name given in advance to the monetary unit, which has not yet been born) are aired from time to time.

As regards the policy of those who hold real power—the president and the government—it is hardly in need of additional comments: It is even somewhat awkward to recall once again the efforts of N. Nazarbayev and his "team" first to bury the old ruble zone and then to re-create a new one. It seems perfectly clear that the Kazakhstani administration, guided if only by a sense of elementary self-preservation, will not introduce a national currency in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile the situation with regard to forming the new ruble zone is dragging on. Questions both of the exchange of cashless money in Kazakhstani bank accounts for "new" money and of Russia's allocation of 1993-pattern cash to Kazakhstan—for exchange, payment of wages, etc.—remain "suspended." At any rate, "old" money, which was officially taken out of circulation in Russia more than a month ago, is continuing to circulate in Kazakhstan today. The situation is actually shaping up in such a way that even countries close to Kazakhstan—Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan—virtually no longer use this money.

As a result, the mass dumping of "old" cash onto Kazakhstan is gathering momentum. Small and large sums being brought illegally into the republic are being "caught" almost daily. The two cases I mentioned at the beginning are of just this kind. In one the South Sakhalin firm of "Maral" imported R4.83 billion into Kazakhstan to buy food grain. In the other the "Turkmenmyasomoltorg" state economically accountable association flew in R4 billion to its Kazakhstani partner—the "Turan-Aziya" holding center—for the purchase of meat, and the total value of this deal was R13 billion. In both cases the money "was being forked out" exclusively in R10,000 bills, which were being taken out of circulation. These, I repeat, are just two of the most obvious cases among the many other, less obvious ones.

The introduction of tough new restrictions on the importation and circulation of cash is being prepared as a means of protecting the republic's interests.

In addition, if you take it as read that the ruble area will still remain in the CIS, then with the passage of time the huge mass of "old" money which has accumulated in Kazakhstan will become a misfortune not only for Kazakhstan itself but also for Russia and all the other "ruble" states.

Kyrgyzstan

Talbott's Remarks Prior to Departure Reported

LD1309102993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0936 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynaev]

[Text] Bishkek September 13 TASS—The United States will firmly and steadily support the reforms and policies of Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, Strobe Talbott, ambassador-at-large to the Commonwealth of Independent States and special adviser to the U.S. secretary of state, announced today in the Bishkek airport before his departure for Dushanbe.

On Monday [13 September], Talbott together with representatives of the U.S. Government and President Clinton's administration looked into political and economic reform progress in Kyrgyzstan.

America's representatives met with the Kyrgyz president, speaker of the parliament and the leaders of Kyrgyzstan's democratic parties.

Talbott said President Akayev's actions are highly thought of in the United States, and that his opinion is valued. By request of President Clinton, the American representatives asked for Akayev's view on developments in Tajikistan, China and other neighboring countries in Central Asia.

Kyrgyzstan is already receiving more aid per person than any other country in the CIS, Talbott said. The U.S. and the Group of Seven support the policy of reform in Kyrgyzstan and will do everything they can to see that these reforms succeed, Talbott declared, concluding his short press-conference on the tarmac.

Agreement Signed With India on Direct Air Links

LD1209050093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0300 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Summary] The Governments of Kyrgyzstan and India have signed in Bishkek an agreement on direct air links.

The president of the Kyrgyzstan airline company said that Delhi-Bishkek-Delhi flights would be operated by India's state airline company after an international terminal is opened at Bishkek airport.

Tajikistan

Talbott Says U.S. Aid Depends on Reform

LD1309161093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 13 TASS—The U.S. aid to Tajikistan will depend on the effects of democratic

reforms and compliance with human rights, Strobe Talbott, U.S. ambassador at large and a special envoy of President Bill Clinton, told a news conference on Monday [13 September].

According to the ambassador, who is here on a brief working visit, during Monday talks Tajik leaders have confirmed their adherence to democracy.

Assessing the situation in Tajikistan Talbott said the country should try as hard as possible to speed up democratization and to achieve national reconciliation.

In its turn, the U.S. is ready to use all its influence to solve this question which is vital for the whole Central Asia.

The humanitarian aid to Tajikistan from the United States for the past two years amounted to 45 million dollars. Talbott said that Tajikistan also will get its share from the 800 million dollar aid to the CIS, provided stability and national reconciliation were achieved.

So far the situation is far from good, he said, adding that his meeting with Imamali Rakhmonov gave him hope for political settlement in Tajikistan.

Russian Commander 'Would Not Rule Out' Ammo Dump Sabotage

PM1309133993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "Sabotage or...?"]

[Text] A fire at a munitions storage facility near Dushanbe was noticed at 1530 local time on 9 September. The fire very quickly enveloped practically the entire building, and the efforts made by the guard detail to localize and extinguish the fire were unsuccessful. Even the infantry fighting vehicle with which the guard detail commander attempted to beat down the flames proved to be no use.

Foreseeing what would happen next—the storage facility contained artillery ammunition—a decision was made to evacuate the guard detail and everybody who was present that day on the territory occupied by the depots.

The exploding shells set fire to other storage facilities. As a result six out of the eight depots were destroyed by fire.

There were no casualties. It helped that the storage facilities, which were protected by earth ramparts, were located in a depression. They were shielded on three sides by natural protective shelters. So the exploding shells did not damage the nearby divisional training center and settlement.

Nevertheless, there is one troubling thing about this entire episode. The date 9 September is a holiday. Tajikistan was marking its second anniversary of independence. Naturally, the official authorities were not the only ones preparing for the festivities. Could this be how the opposition gunmen who have secreted themselves around Dushanbe decided to "celebrate" the holiday?

In a telephone conversation with us, 210st Division Commander Colonel Viktor Timofeyev would not rule out the possibility of sabotage. However, he stressed, he did not want to "put it all down" to the gunmen immediately, before the investigation had been concluded.

Uzbekistan

Czech Trade Minister Arrives in Tashkent

LD1009223193 Prague CTK in English 2150 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Tashkent, Sept 10 (CTK)—After leaving Ashgabat, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy journeyed to the Uzbek capital of Tashkent where he signed a bilateral agreement with Uzbek Deputy Premier Anatoliy Voznenko on economic, commercial and scientific-technical cooperation.

Under this intergovernmental agreement, both sides will pay special attention to cooperation in the areas of energy, road construction, transport, telecommunications and water management. Both sides will also assist in the transfer of technology, know-how and the setting up of joint ventures.

The contractual parties will support direct contacts between entrepreneurs of both countries and mutual participation in trade fairs and exhibitions.

Both countries are also interested in creating conditions for the free movement of capital, obtaining investments for the carrying out of significant projects and participating in the privatisation process. Mutual trade accounting will be carried out in freely convertible currencies.

The new economic cooperation agreement went into effect the moment it was signed thus making null and void the May 12, 1992, agreement between the former Czechoslovakia and Uzbekistan.

Also signed was the protocol on cooperation between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and its Uzbek counterpart. According to it, both sides pledge to jointly work out proposals for the fundamental goals of cooperation and to consult one another in matters concerning economic cooperation.

Uzbekistan is a second stop on Dlouhy's week-long visit of three Central Asian countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. He left Prague for the tour on Wednesday.

Discusses Cooperation

LD1109215393 Prague CTK in English 1910 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Tashkent, Sept 11 (CTK)—Czech products have always enjoyed a good name in Uzbekistan which knows that the Czechs are reliable partners, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said in a meeting with Czech Trade and Industry Minister Vladimir Dlouhy last night.

Karimov said he had already ordered the purchase of four tram sets and five trolleybuses from the Czech Republic. If they prove their worth, Uzbekistan will be interested in further supplies, he added.

Karimov stressed that the two countries' relations were not burdened by any debts.

Uzbekistan is a second stop on Dlouhy's week-long tour of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which started on Wednesday. It is aimed at promoting cooperation with the Central Asian countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Today, Dlouhy met with Deputy Industry Minister Valeriy Dzhurayev, who regretted that only two out of Uzbekistan's 1,000 joint ventures had been created with Czech companies.

Locomotive Parts Contract Concluded

LD1209194093 Prague CTK in English 1850 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Tashkent, Sept 12 (CTK)—The Czech company Inekon Praha will supply spare parts for locomotives worth 800,000 dollars, under a contract concluded today.

Inekon Director Josef Husek, who accompanies Czech Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy on his visit to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, told CTK that Tashkent would also buy five trams for trial operation. If they prove their worth, Inekon would get a 24-million-dollar worth order from the city, he added.

Turkmen railways had shown interest in 15 locomotives and spare parts. They will pay with supplies of oil products, or gas worth 15 million dollars, Husek said.

Earlier this year, Inekon has concluded contracts on supplies of spare parts and locomotives worth 14.5 million dollars with Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus and Ukraine, Husek pointed out.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister, Saidmukhtar Saidkasimov, told CTK today his country was interested in trade and other contacts with the Czech Republic.

He said that he had invited his Czech colleague Josef Zielenic to Uzbekistan which is interested in establishing full diplomatic relations with the Czech Republic.

In talks with Czech Ambassador to Russia, Rudolf Slansky, Saidkasimov said that Czech entrepreneurs' and diplomats' entry into Uzbekistan would not be hampered, in spite of visa requirements for all foreigners.

Establishes Economic Cooperation

LD1209204893 Prague CTK in English 2015 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Tashkent, Sept 12 (CTK)—The Czech Republic has done well in strong competition and established economic cooperation with Uzbekistan, Czech Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy told CTK today.

He pointed out mainly his talks with Uzbek President Islam Karimov who supports Czech-Uzbek economic cooperation. He has accepted an official invitation from President Vaclav Havel to visit the Czech Republic.

Dlouhy said that further economic cooperation would develop on the basis of the bilateral agreement on economic, commercial and scientific-technological cooperation, which he signed with Uzbek Deputy Premier Anatoliy Voznenko on Friday.

Uzbekistan will also support the development of a joint Czech- Uzbek joint venture assembling Avia lorries, Dlouhy said.

In talks with Czech companies, Uzbek representatives showed interest in supplies of locomotives, trams, trolleybuses and consumer goods, he added.

Uzbekistan is a second stop on Dlouhy's week-long tour of three Central Asian countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) - Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan - for which he left Prague on Wednesday.

Armenia

Iranian Foreign Minister's Message Detailed

NC1309200393 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry's press and public relations service has circulated the following statement:

Bahram Qasemi, representative of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, conveyed a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the Armenian foreign minister on 9 September.

The message notes specifically that the Iranian Government expresses anxiety over the (?frequent) increases in the tension in the region and the presence of Armenian forces deep inside Azerbaijani territory. The military operations—which lead to the occupation of new lands and force innocent people to become refugees—undertaken under the pretext of Karabakh's defense are being assessed as unacceptable and (?inadmissible).

In reiterating that Iran is opposed to any alteration of the borders and to the deployment of Armenian forces on the occupied territories, the message expresses the opinion that such a course of developments is [word indistinct] posing a threat to the independence of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In conclusion, the message expresses the view that once positive developments take place toward the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territory, more serious talks will start between Iran and Armenia for bilateral and regional cooperation.

Foreign Minister Papazyan Replies

NC1309204193 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan has sent a reply to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. In conveying sincere greetings and wishes, Papazyan touched upon a number of questions pertaining to the situation arising from developments.

While not sharing a number of assessments noted in the message of the Iranian foreign minister, the Armenian foreign minister noted that the message once again confirms that Iran, as a neighboring country, is ready to contribute to the process of establishing peace and stability in the region by making use of the traditional good-neighborly ties between our two countries.

Referring to certain issues raised in the message, Papazyan assured that the Armenian leadership not only shares Iran's concern on the developments surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh, but is also exerting maximum efforts to stop the bloodshed and to create the necessary preconditions for the start of the process for the political settlement of the Karabakh problem. The Armenian and Karabakh leadership believe that the current military operations in the region have now reached their limit and their further continuation not only does not help the establishment of peace in the region but is fraught with unpredictable consequences.

At the same time, in the opinion of Armenian officials, the future course of developments and the possibility of transforming the conflict situation to the sphere of political negotiations mostly depend on the position of the Azerbaijani leadership, as well as its desire and ability to start the search for mutually concessionist political solutions.

Neither Karabakh nor Armenia in particular had, and still do not have, any territorial demands from Azerbaijan. The latest operations undertaken outside the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh are the (?logical) extension of the ongoing conflict.

The message also says that readiness of certain [words indistinct] of Baku officials might constitute the foundation for the establishment of the cease-fire and for the commencement of the political talks with the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic officials. That, in turn, will considerably reduce the possibility of the nonconstructive intervention by any third force [words indistinct].

In conclusion, Papazyan reassured the Iranian foreign minister that the Armenian leadership (?has) very serious aspirations to achieve a political and mutually concessionist solution to the Karabakh problem and (?takes) into full consideration the interests of the regional countries, and hence expects understanding and assistance from these countries.

In highly appraising the friendly ties between our countries, the message expressed the conviction that no matter how complex the political situation in the region, it cannot and should not [words indistinct] between our peoples, our traditional close ties, and [words indistinct] toward peace and cooperation.

Karabakh Defense Committee Chief Visiting Yerevan

NC1309141993 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 13 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Robert Kocharyan, chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh State Defense Committee, arrived in Yerevan today on a working visit.

He is expected to meet Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, and other Armenian officials.

Situation in Karabakh, on Border Viewed

NC1309193593 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

A serious effort is being made to remove the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. However, developments have indicated once again that direct talks have to be held between the NKR and Azerbaijan to quickly resolve the dispute. We must note with satisfaction that Azerbaijan's new leaders have stressed, although inconsistently, that they are interested in the peace process.

As we reported earlier, the talks that were scheduled for 8 September were not held as a result of Azerbaijan's objection. However, NKR's and Azerbaijan's high-level representatives met in Moscow yesterday. [passage omitted]

The sides discussed several problems and agreed for the first time on a high-level summit between the NKR and Azerbaijan. Furthermore, they discussed the question of extending the duration of the cease-fire. In short, the talks are continuing and we wish to express the hope that a way will be found to persuade the sides to find a peaceful settlement to the confrontation.

Meanwhile, no wide-scale clashes or exchanges of fire have occurred between the two sides in the past two days, regardless of the fact that the 10-day cease-fire agreement has expired. Nevertheless, a serious state of tension prevails in the region.

Azerbaijan's military units launched attacks on the frontlines in Gadrutskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons on 9 September. NKR's military forces obstructed the attacks and launched counterattacks to force the enemy units to retreat. Six enemy fighters were taken prisoner by the NKR military units in the clashes. Several troops were wounded on the Armenian side.

No serious incidents have occurred in the other parts of NKR's frontlines in the past few days.

Although the exchanges of fire and clashes on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan have decreased, a wave of tension still exists in the region. Armenia's border rayons have been fired on from Azerbaijan at short intervals. For example, the border positions in Kapanskiy Rayon were fired on from Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayon on the night of 10 September. One of the Armenian fighters was killed in the incident. However, the Armenian side refrained from returning the fire.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has informed Yerevan Radio today that the defense positions in [placename indistinct] in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon and [placename indistinct] in Idzhevanskiy Rayon were fired on from Azerbaijan last night. However, the situation along the entire border was relatively peaceful after the incident. The peaceful situation continued until this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the press service has also reported that several shots were fired in various areas on the Turkish side of the border between Armenia and Turkey.

The facts we have brought to your attention indicate that the Armenian side has not allowed any activity that may worsen the situation. As a rule, Azerbaijan is responsible for the deterioration of the situation. It is time to end the provocative activities. That is required by our people's interests. It is impossible to ignoring this fact.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Addresses National Assembly on Russia Visit

LD1309132993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Baku September 13 TASS—Leader of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev urged his country to boost relations with Russia and join the Commonwealth of Independent States and added that Turkey and the United States would welcome such steps.

Aliyev told the national parliament on Monday that it is in the interests of Azerbaijan to develop relations with Russia on all levels and join the CIS.

"Rapproachement between Azerbaijan and Russia will strengthen international positions of the republic, will ensure its independence and security", the leader of Azerbaijan said.

Neighbouring Turkey does not oppose, but welcomes such steps of Azerbaijan, according to Aliyev, who added that the United States occupy the same stance.

Assembly Discusses Visit

NC1309190493 Baku TURAN in English 1510 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 13 (TURAN)—This noon after the break Milli Mejlis continued the discussion of the results of Geydar Aliyev's visit to Moscow.

Addressing the deputies Geydar Aliyev told improvement of relations between Azerbaijan and Russia will not influence the relations with another countries. He also stressed that he had coordinated his activities with Ankara and had been backed by the President of Turkey Suleyman Demirel.

Geydar Aliyev also reported Minister of Foreign Affairs Hikmet Cetin was due to arrive in Baku in the nearest future. The goal of his visit is to develop the results,

which had been achieved during tripartite consultations of Yeltsin, Ciller and Aliyev.

Commenting the results of his meetings with Ambassador-at-Large of the U.S. Department of State Strobe Talbott Geydar Aliyev pointed the U.S. regarded with attention to the latest internal-political steps of Azerbaijan. As G. Aliyev reported the U.S. is not against Azerbaijan's entering into the CIS.

Deputy president noted he came out for settling the situation in the Caucasus by efforts of not only one state but through the mediation of the CSCE and UNO organizations.

Further on National Assembly Meeting

NC1409104993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani National Assembly held a regular session today chaired by Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet and National Assembly. The items on the agenda were:

1. The results of the Azerbaijani delegation's visit to Moscow, the talks there, and their outcome.

2. Aliyev's talks with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller in Moscow.

3. The talks held by Strobe Talbott, plenipotentiary envoy of the U.S. State Department, with Azerbaijan's leaders and their outcome.

Aliyev briefed the session on these issues, explaining matters relating to Azerbaijan's relations with Russia, Turkey, and the United States and analyzed the social and political situation. He said a new era has begun in improving relations between Azerbaijan and Russia.

Later, the session heard the views of Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov and Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov. Speeches were made in which the speakers voiced support for the policies maintained by the Republic's leaders.

Azerbaijani radio and television covered the session.

The permanent commissions will convene later. The session will resume its work today at 1600.

Karabakh Forces Complete Withdrawal From Kubatlinskiy

LD1309123793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The withdrawal of troops of the Karabakh Defense Army from Azerbaijan's Kubatlinskiy rayon has been completed. Thus, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's request to the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic h[illegible] been met. Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Defense Committee, has issued a statement reaffirming that Nagorno-Karabakh has no territorial claims against Azerbaijan.

In Nagorno-Karabakh itself, opinions about the operation vary greatly. For instance, some say that the international community is vigorously voicing its concern only over the consequences of the Karabakh war, rather than over its causes. While accusing the Defense Army of pillage and violence, they forget that it was precisely that, pillage and violence directed against Armenians, that forced the Karabakh population to take up arms.

Nevertheless, the upcoming meeting in Moscow between representatives of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh gives ground for hope that the long war will soon come to an end.

Defense Ministry Reports Armenian Shelling of Villages

NC1309134693 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1221 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 13.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenia continues to centre fire on Azeri villages. Today at night, September 13, bordering villages of the Zangelanskiy district were under fire and yesterday in the afternoon the village Sadarak of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was concentrated fire during a hour, ASSA-IRADA correspondent was informed in the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan. And it takes place at the moment of peaceful talks in Moscow between leadership of Azerbaijan and Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh.

People's Front Representatives Arrested

NC1309204293 Baku TURAN in English 1510 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 13 (TURAN)—Today in the headquarter of the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] police arrested chief of this organization Magomed Imanov, manager for foreign relations Abil Bayramov and member of the staff Khatira Muradova.

Yesterday after search in the press-centre of the PFA police has arrested its leader Makhir Mamedov and one of its members Ali Khadzhikuliyev.

The police did not explain the cause of the arrests.

Information centre of the PFA reports having been arrested Friday deputy chairman of the PFA Ulvi Khakimov was still under arrest.

The editor-in-chief of newspaper AZADLYG Ganimat Zakhidov addressed an appeal to the U.S. Department of States and American Embassy in Baku in which he had drawn the attention to the facts of oppression of democratic press on political reasons.

Chairman of Azeri parliament Geydar Aliyev in the course of his meeting with the representative of the U.S. Department of States Strobe Talbott on Saturday stated

that human rights will be observed in Azerbaijan and state bodies will ensure freedom of speech and political pluralism.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Current Situation

LD1309115093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0555 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Weekly interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council by correspondent Nato Oniani; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Oniani] You visited Kutaisi, Samtredia, and Khoni, met commanders of government troops, leaders of rayons, and you also met Mkhedrioni [armed section of the Georgian Rescue Corps]. I am pointing this out because the population wants to know under what statute Mkhedrioni units are there.

Last week, a meeting between members of the Georgian parliament and the former Supreme Council of Georgia, arranged by the leadership of the Ajaria Supreme Council, ended virtually without any result.

Yesterday in Kutaisi you said that the time of mercy, amnesties, and manifestos had gone, and the time of order and self-demand had arrived. However, you did not consider negotiations exhausted. What will come next? What logical consequences can all this lead to?

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. My meetings yesterday were very significant for me. My first task was to meet government troops and arrange certain contacts with the population. I was positively impressed by the meetings with our troops, by their aspirations, by the attitude of the population toward our army, a very kind attitude. I should say that a large proportion of the soldiers, several hundreds of them, spend nights among the population. I had conversations with the population in Khoni, and villages, and they spoke with a certain pride about Georgia's children. There are individual facts, and everyone is aware of them, but they are a little exaggerated, and I would like to say that the young people standing on this side of Tskhenistskali [the river separating rebels and government troops] are really the children to be respected.

As for Mkhedrioni, I would not distinguish it from other units, because wherever Mkhedrioni units go, be it Abkhazia or another region, they accomplish tasks entrusted on them by the state, by the government. I have to say that the issue of incorporating Mkhedrioni into the state structure has been approved and would have been completed earlier if we had not had complications in the Tskhenistkali area and the region as a whole.

I have said that the time of endless forgiveness and manifestoes has come to an end. I do not want to say that this was fruitless. It was a measure, especially the manifesto that influenced the people. I do not mean a group of fanatics. I do not think this would not influence normal people. The manifesto has done what it was meant to do. However, there are limits in everything. Today, we are in a different time, with different requirements, and accordingly we have to determine the course of our actions. At first glance results seem to be poor, but on the other hand, at that stage, action played a definite role in establishing the aspirations of the population and its trust for the government.

Now we are facing other aims and we will talk about these other aims. Yesterday, I had a meeting with American journalists and they asked me a question about what was happening on both sides of the Tskhenistskali. I told them that this was an absurd situation when one brother was at one bank and the other brother was on the other bank. If one wonders what so many armaments and expenses are for, a normal person would not be able to explain it. There is no logic in it. This is an illogical action that was thrust upon us, but I still believe that this absurd situation will come to an end.

You have mentioned Aslan Abashidze's initiative [talks between present and former authorities]. I do not want to say that this was an absolutely fruitless event. This is usual for every conflict or complicated problem. Patience is essential. It is impossible for the very first meeting to end successfully. There should not be any disappointment because I know that there are plenty of reserves for the settlement. All the ways to settlement at present lead us to reconciliation of the people who are one flesh and blood—unless someone decides to sacrifice the nation's and country's interests to his own vanity. I welcomed Abashidze's initiative and would ask him to continue this in his usual vigorous and creative way.

[Oniani] In an interview last week, Deputy Boris Kakubava said that if all the armaments and manpower that are in Samegrelo [Mingrelia] today had been in Abkhazia, Gagra would not have been lost.

Every now and again, there were reports in the press that units led by Kobalia or others had stolen weapons. However, not all the weapons that are now on the opposite side of the Tskhenistskali river were stolen, judging by their quality and numbers. Who has been arming these units, who has been supplying the weapons that Kobalia is handing out to the people? Are there other forces, apart from politicians, behind events in Samegrelo?

[Shevardnadze] One thing I would like to say is that most of the weapons they [Zviadist rebels] have, 80 or 90 percent, if not more, have gone through state channels. Other channels did not exist. They had very few other opportunities. State units were under supplied in their favor. Unfortunately, that is how it was, but when you are asking me who did it, I think that it is a little too early to talk about it, at a time when we are looking for ways

out of this situation. It may aggravate the situation even further. Otherwise, everyone knows it well, perfectly well.

[Oniani] One of the demands from the opposing side is to suspend the signing of a treaty with Russia until the dispute with the rebels is settled. Recent events indicate that some forces are trying to play the Russian card to their advantage. The fourth [as heard] round of talks between Georgia and Russia was held last week. Do you think it will be the final round before the signing of the treaty, taking into account the fact that events in Samegrelo, the Gali incident, which is jeopardizing the tripartite agreement, are not, to put it mildly, conducive to this?

The situation in Russia itself is complex too. Let us look back at last week's events: Chita Oblast is demanding the status of a republic, Ingushetia is holding a referendum on secession from the Federation. These must be among the reasons why parliament offered Yeltsin reconciliation and an end to the confrontation.

[Shevardnadze] You are right in saying that the radical opposition, which has hostile attitudes, is doing everything to wreck the talks and block the signing of the treaty. However, the latest round of talks have testified that there is no lack of agreement and it will be quite feasible to sign the treaty in the next two or three weeks.

One should speak about relations between Russia and Georgia in general. We must try to reach a national consensus as soon as possible. As soon as possible, I would like to stress this. It is a very sensitive issue for every family, every Georgian, and every non-Georgian citizen of Georgia. I want common public opinion about it. I want all of us, the majority of our population, to be in favor of new relations with Russia. There are people who are against good relations with Russia, but, as far as I know, a trend is now developing toward the former option. I belong to the group of people who are in favor of close relations with Russia. I am saying it with more confidence now, because recent days, and our bitter life in general, have again convinced me that unless we achieve relations with Russia that will guarantee Georgia's independence and freedom, we may find ourselves in a very hard situation.

I would like to give a piece of advice to everyone who is trying to play the Russian card, as you said. Let no one attempt it. Let no one try to play the Russian card in Georgia. Likewise, let no one in Russia try to play the Georgian card. I know when and how to settle relations between the two countries. President Yeltsin knows it, too. We are in agreement on this and have quite a good level of mutual understanding. I believe that good relations, be they of economic, political, or other nature, are necessary. We will come to this and it will happen sooner rather than later. The date will probably be decided and endless talk of how to play the Russian card will be over. All these approaches are rather primitive and naive, and, honestly, they are not even good enough for a laugh in high politics for a serious politician.

[Oniani] The past week can be said to be the beginning of a struggle for order, an event long awaited by our population. An operational headquarters has been established to fight saboteurs, militant terrorism, and the narcotics business. When in Kutaisi, you said that on 14 September, at parliament, you would make a statement that the country would move to a state of emergency. You also said that this would be a temporary limitation of democracy aimed to save democracy. You spoke on this issue quite strictly at the meeting of Tbilisi citizens on 10 September. I remember one phrase from your speech that day. I am sorry I might not remember it word for word but you said that why Erekle [Georgian king who signed a treaty with Russia that resulted in the annexation of Georgia] could make such a decision and why Davit Aghmashenebeli [Georgian king who united Georgia in the 11th century] was both wise and brutal at the same time. Finally, you have made the decision to temporarily take up the duties of interior minister. Do you think that promises about establishing order will remain promises or will there be an actual result? Above all, you have experience of working at the offices of internal affairs. In 1964 you were the first deputy minister of the social order; this was what it was called then. In 1965 you became the minister and after this office had been reorganized you were the minister of interior from 1968-1972.

[Shevardnadze] You have revealed all my sins from the archives [laughs]. Discipline is a central problem for Georgia from a global point of view. We cannot speak of reviving the economy, of attracting large-scale foreign investment—and we have unlimited opportunities for this—having normal human relations and generally reaching stability, as well as saving democracy, unless order is restored, unless order is established. New order, a new kind of order. I have said that it will not be like it used to be during communist rule but it will be a different order, order of an independent country and independent state that should establish a normal atmosphere for people to work, live, and rest in normal conditions relying on its own power, its own possibilities, and on the basis of its own law.

If we fail to restore order, I have purposefully mentioned Erekle and Davit Aghmashenebeli. Today mafiosi clans and all these unregistered, non-governmental armed units have become so dangerous that unless order is destroyed, unless it is finished, Georgia might really disintegrate. There are many threats against Georgia's integrity but this is the biggest. People cannot bear it any longer. This was perfectly demonstrated at the meeting with Tbilisi's citizens and my meetings yesterday also proved it.

Why do we accentuate this problem? Because there is no other way out. This is a problem that depends solely on us. It does not depend on foreign credits or foreign aid.

It is in our hands. There are forces in our society that are capable of establishing order and these forces should be used.

As for my combining the duties of interior minister, I have said that this is a temporary event. Its major aim is to demonstrate how I emphasize the importance of order. The offices that have to carry this burden work very hard. This concerns not only the ministry, but also other law-enforcement bodies—the procurator's office, the intelligence service, and naturally the Defense Ministry. We cannot speak of order without active measures, and combined, well-coordinated work from the military, specialists of the intelligence service, and police.

That is why I adopted these duties temporarily, although it was rather difficult for me to take this decision. You, yourself remembered my biography. This is it. Everyone remembers everything. Some remember the good, others remember the bad. I know many people will misuse it. I am surprised it has not been used before, but it is not too late. Tomorrow or the day after there will be talk about it.

Anyway, when I see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, as it is often said, I have to move toward this light, together with my people.

[Oniani] At the meeting with the citizens of Tbilisi, you used a radically different, strict tone, and you took a similar tone during the following days. Did your decision result from the meeting, or did the meeting convince you that it was necessary to take the decision that you did not, or could not take before, for any reason whatever? And is there any danger that the action taken to establish order will result in a severe reaction?

[Shevardnadze] After the meeting with the citizens of Tbilisi, I had the impression that they and I had been heading in one direction and had finally reached the simultaneous conclusion that we could not bear it any longer, it all must end and we have to begin a new life, at least in this sphere. Their standpoint and my standpoint fully coincided on this issue and was proved by all the speeches, including mine.

I have to tell you that we are facing complete similarity of views between Tbilisi's citizens and the whole Georgian population. I was convinced of this during my trip yesterday.

I was told the same in Kutaisi, where a great deal is being accomplished to enable the city to serve itself and its population would be its own master. Incidentally, it is not easy for an armed person to appear in the streets of Kutaisi. Those who are not members of a registered, armed unit cannot appear armed in town. Many other things are also happening there that must be welcomed, and to tell you the truth, I felt strengthened when I came back from Kutaisi.

The movements that have started in Tbilisi and some other regions have a similar effect. Much is done in Khoni, Samtredia despite the fact that the situation there is not quite so simple. I met almost all the administrators of the Imereti region yesterday, I spoke to the population, and felt sure that the aspirations of the Tbilisi people coincide with the aspirations and desires of the whole population of Georgia, all Georgians.

Yesterday, I could not go to Rustavi town, near Tbilisi, but I had a telephone conversation with the town's authorities, representatives of the giant industrial enterprises of Rustavi. They asked for permission to hold a huge event, where the whole town will turn out—come and see the aspirations that are driving the citizens of Rustavi.

I believe the same will be said in Kahketi, Gori, in the west, or in the east, in the mountains, or in the plains. When there is such feeling, something must come of it.

I have to say that I am deeply sure that parliament's opinion will be in full agreement, or even that it will coincide with the opinion of what I called at the meeting the people's parliament.

[Oniani] Your decision to found a new party has thrown many into confusion. Does this decision mean that it was premature for Georgia to pursue democratic ideals and that, first of all, it was necessary to unite the country under national ideals? I am speaking of national ideals that are free of populism and demagoguery.

[Shevardnadze] No, it was not premature. Everything was natural and was part of a democratic process. There has been nothing in our recent history, in the last few years that is difficult to explain and this is unnatural. I know that some political figures, members of the opposition, are saying that I should not have started speaking about the party. Others, for example, Kako Akaki Asatiani [Supreme Council chairman under Gamsakhurdia], go as far as saying that Shevardnadze is embarking on the socialist path. This is not out of the ordinary and such statements are typical of him. However, I must tell you directly that those who regard my initiative to found a party—or other measures I have been forced to take—as embarking on a socialist path should themselves be regarded as not too well-informed on history. This should not be happening. Everybody, especially historians, should look back at history, and look at Georgia's socialist past and how a new system is being built on the ruins of the old one. What the new system is, should not be too difficult to see.

I have already said what this party is going to be. I cannot propose a charter or a program now. This must be done at a founding meeting or conference by an action group that will take the responsibility of drafting it. As I said, the party should be a guarantor of democratic development, political pluralism, freedom and independence. Otherwise, there is no need for such a party. Who knows, perhaps it is the Traditionalist Party [the Traditionalist Union is the name of a group led by Asatiani] that will become this party's partner. Only of course, if they pursue the right policy. Although, they often say that there is no policy as such. I do not know what their policy

is, after all. But if the people support the policy of the Traditionalists or any other political force, it will become a force as strong as the party I am talking about in the future.

I must say, in general, that there must be debate. However, I find it hard to be edified from the left, from the right, from the center. Everybody feels it is their duty to edify others, but would they be so kind as to have a policy for themselves and their party and work to make it a common policy for the people? I will join them if they do so.

[Oniani] Tomorrow you are forwarding to parliament a new composition of the Cabinet of Ministers. You said it will be a compromise version of the cabinet, emerging from a compromise with certain political forces. Nevertheless, I would like to ask you a question that you asked when praising the candidates for the cabinet during their introduction: If you are so good, why do you work so badly?

[Shevardnadze] There is no mercy in this world...

[Oniani, interrupting] It was a logical question.

[Shevardnadze] Even before I nominated the candidates, I said well in advance that the Cabinet of Ministers could not be ideal. The same applies to parliament and the head of state. However, I must state with full responsibility that it will be a working Cabinet of Ministers, in the best meaning of the word working. It will be a cabinet of reform, social care, and order. I have no doubt about it. All the new members whom we have invited—by the way, nobody was queuing up for the job, some of them were reluctant to accept it, while others turned it down—came with a determination to work day and night, 24 hours a day, to serve their people. This is what the cabinet will be like.

[Oniani] Since we mentioned the Cabinet of Ministers, I would like to know if anything is being done to make the approaching winter easier than the last one, which was rather hard, as we all remember. I mean foodstuffs, for instance, and, say, fuel.

[Shevardnadze] This is the biggest concern we have to handle. Had we not been facing other problems like discipline, the tense situation at the Tskhenistskali river, in Samegrelo, and in other areas of western Georgia, we would all have been handling this problem.

Today, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia is leaving for Moscow. There was contact with the leadership of Azerbaijan. The main problem and the main concern is getting ready for winter. I must admit that the situation is not enviable and I hope our population is not expecting an ideal winter from the point of being prepared for it. Such a devastated country cannot have such hopes, but the situation will not be hopeless, just in case we have the time and the chance to utilize our possibilities and resources.

I have been regarding our relations with the European Community with great hope. You know that I addressed the G-7, especially great European countries, leaders of almost all EC countries, and Jacques Delors, the central figure of the Community. Two or three days ago his letter was published in our press. Although I had known that the issue would be solved positively, he informed me officially that the Georgian aid of 40 million ecu will be used for purchasing essential foodstuffs and wheat at the European market. There will apparently be an opportunity to obtain fats, medicine, and other things that are acutely scarce now. I have asked for an additional 70 million ecu and there is a promise that this issue is being regarded favorably. Although it is difficult to say what this second portion will comprise—70 million, 20 million, or 30 million. If all this is solved and settled, we will be able to pass winter and spring in relative normality regarding foodstuffs.

There are other hopeful relations as well. I must admit that Turkmenistan has really held out its fraternal hand. We have no hard currency to pay our debts and they have granted us time. If we show our aspirations and pay back with home produce, they will probably not strangle us for currency. Azerbaijan helps us. The Kazakh Government helps us. There are good prospects for importing wheat from there. Azerbaijan helps us by supplying fuel. It is true that we are trying to pay immediately, but you know that our poverty often impedes this process.

Anyway, the guarantee for the coming winter, and for the future, for reviving our industry, and reactivation of our economy, will be linked with Russia. In this connection, I think that by the end of this year real relations should be established between Georgia and Russia. I do not mean just the signing of a treaty, I mean real relations that will start every motion to save the country's economy in this critical situation.

Finally, I cannot help mentioning the abundant aid we have been getting from the United States and Germany. These two states are distinguished countries. At the moment we practically survive on American wheat.

Incidentally, many things that come from the United States are being stolen and robbed. I do not want to name the areas but there are some where the goods are stopped. The goods are addressed to the Head of State for further distribution among the population. These people curse us, the government, but on the other hand, eat the bread baked from that flour, they sometimes even spread butter on it. However, they never forget to curse the government that actually is the guarantor of this food.

I think it must be a temporary situation. I believe there will be hope if we get an opportunity to work, help one another, support one another, and be together.

[Oniani] Finally, a significant event is taking place in the United States today. The Israeli and PLO sides have been invited by Clinton to sign a document on mutual

recognition and limited autonomy for the Arabs in Jerico and the Gaza Strip. After profound confrontation and endless wars, this is how it all ended. However, the agreement did not enjoy unequivocal support. There have been outcries in various countries, Israel included. Do you think this region has received a guarantee of stability for the future?

[Shevardnadze] I have worked quite extensively on this problem in the past and had fairly interesting ideas, which I expressed during my address at the United Nations. I made several fundamental points. Some parts of this new agreement take them into account. Today's agreement is a result of experience gained over past decades. I would like to greet this agreement with a whole-hearted welcome. It is an extremely daring step by both sides. The role of the United States and other countries assisting the process has been clearly marked. I believe it is a hopeful start for comprehensive reconciliation.

This is another example for our opposition, who should know that conflicts, especially the conflicts we are talking about such as ours, cannot be settled without mutual understanding and concessions. This seems to be a good example of two sides taking a decision they had to take after many years of confrontation and conflict, after decades of bloodshed and killings.

It is difficult to say whether there is a full cease-fire guarantee and that the conflict will not break up again in the future. There have been agreements in the past which, unfortunately, failed to work. However, I think that a most hopeful step has been taken now, which, as I said, I whole-heartedly support.

[Oniani] Thank you very much. Dear listeners, you have been listening to Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council.

Announces Resignation 14 Sep

LD1409104093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1013 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Sep—Eduard Shevardnadze announced his resignation as head of state in the Georgian parliament today. The words of "Mkhedrioni" leader Jaba Ioseliani, who accused Eduard Shevardnadze of attempting to establish a dictatorship in the Republic, were the straw that broke the camel's back. This was how Jaba Ioseliani, a leading political figure, assessed the Georgian head of state's attempt to stabilize the domestic political situation in the country by introducing a state of emergency and suspending the activity of parliament.

Eduard Shevardnadze's statement must be formally examined in parliament which, according to the law on state power, decides whether or not to accept the resignation of the country's leader. However, heated debates are now going on in the Republic's parliament, threatening to develop into fights between opponents. Today's session of parliament has been virtually wrecked.

Eduard Shevardnadze left the hall and secluded himself in his office with Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili and Irakli Batiashvili, chief of the information and intelligence service.

Parliament Approves State of Emergency

LD1309175893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Shevardnadze-led majority in the Georgian Parliament today approved the introduction of a state of emergency in the republic, initially for two or three months. This envisages a ban on rallies and demonstrations and also censoring of the mass media. The need to introduce the emergency is caused primarily by the actions of the detachments of the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia in west Georgia. Shevardnadze says unless they lay down their arms they will be eliminated.

Government Regrets Breakdown of Abkhazia Settlement Process

PM1309151993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Iskandaryan report: "Parallel Government Operates in Georgia"]

[Text] The situation in Abkhazia has been considerably complicated by the fact that the "Zviadists" have sent detachments onto the territory of Galskiy Rayon. This contravenes the treaty on the withdrawal of Georgian troops from Abkhazia.

Meanwhile, a session of former members of the Georgian Supreme Council convened by supporters of former President Gamzakhurdia in the city of Zugdidi decided to resume the activity of the former cabinet of ministers headed by Vissarion Gugushvili, who will exercise his powers on the territory controlled by the Zviadists. The session appealed to the former president, who is in Chechnya, to return to Georgia to fulfill his duties.

The session adopted appeals to the peoples and governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the documents claiming that supporters of the ex-president have not closed off the railroad and are not obstructing the transportation of freight from Poti to Armenia and Azerbaijan. According to information received from Tbilisi, rail and road links with Poti and Sukhumi are still blocked by Kobaliya's formations. As a result of the blockade Georgia's debt to Armenia has reached 13 billion rubles and continues to grow. Twelve ships loaded with grain and other produce have already accumulated in Poti. More than 400 foreign railcars laden

with goods destined for Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, stand idle in the port.

Meanwhile, the withdrawal of Georgian troops from Abkhazia continues; moreover they are being withdrawn to Poti, which is under threat of attack from the Zviadists. One more journey by the Russian Navy ship hired by Georgia to transport its weapons is needed in order to fully withdraw all the combat equipment from Abkhazia.

In Gudauta a joint commission is trying to determine candidates from the Abkhazian and Georgian sides to form a coordinating commission which could become the prototype of future organs of power in Abkhazia for the transitional period.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement expressing concern over incidents of the breakdown of the normalization process in Abkhazia. According to existing reports, the foreign ministry's statement says, armed formations under the command of L. Kobaliya have entered Abkhazia's Galskiy Rayon and seized some of the military equipment and heavy weapons stationed there that were intended for withdrawal from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict in line with the Sochi cease-fire agreement of 27 July 1993.

These events are described in the statement as a serious threat to the settlement process in Abkhazia which had become discernible as a result of the efforts undertaken over the last month by all the interested sides.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the Georgian side to do everything possible to ensure that military formations leave Abkhazian territory, and hopes that in these conditions the Abkhazian side will show restraint and will not allow events to develop in a dangerous direction.

Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict Settlement Talks Postponed

LD1309210593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1602 GMT 13 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 13 Sep—The talks on a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, due to be held in Geneva on Tuesday, have been postponed until the second half of September.

This is stated in a statement by Edouard Brunner, UN secretary general's special envoy to Georgia, issued today. It stresses that "difficulties" which have arisen in the conflict zone concerning the implementation of the 27 July 1993 ceasefire agreement are the reason for the postponement of the consultations, in which Russian diplomats were to have taken place, alongside representatives from the Georgian and Abkhaz sides.

The Swiss diplomat Edouard Brunner visited the conflict zone twice, following his appointment as special envoy to Georgia in May this year. His missions facilitated the initiative that the conflict should be resolved at the negotiating table, with the United Nations playing an active part in the process.

Abkhaz Defense Council Denies Keeping Grads Secret

LD1309161793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The Gudauta information service spread information that the tripartite group of observers had found four Grad installations in Ochamchire which had allegedly been kept in secret by the Georgian side from the joint commission observers.

The press center of the Abkhaz Defense Council denies these allegations and has told a Sakinform correspondent the following:

We presented the Grad installations to the Abkhaz and Russian sides. The special [word indistinct] had been taken off and the Grad installations are unfit for military action. The equipment is ready to be withdrawn from the conflict zone in the immediate future. The problem is that there is no equipment to load them on and a special crane is not available either; after delivery of the crane the equipment will be immediately withdrawn. All this is very well known to the Russian and Abkhaz observers. That is why the noise created by the Gudauta authorities and mass media is not understandable, although nothing is strange as the facts have been distorted before.

Commission Members Deny Tbilisi Violating Sochi Agreement

LD1309141493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi September 13 TASS—Georgian members of the joint commission have denied allegations made by officials in Gudauta that the Georgian side acts in violation of the Sochi agreement, rendering efforts by the Russian and Abkhazian side null and void, the GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY reported today.

During sessions of the joint commission and in written documents the Georgian side repeatedly raised the question of whether the information on the number of military hardware officially submitted by the Gudauta group conformed to reality. However, the Georgian side received no response, the statement said.

According to information available at the Georgian section of the joint commission, only 20 per cent of military hardware and weapons belonging to the Gudauta group are concentrated in the towns of Novy Afon and Psyrtskha. These data are based on the analysis of reconnaissance reports, the shelling of Sukhumi and combat positions, measurement of shell-holes and damages caused to buildings and facilities, the GIA news agency (GIA) reported.

Georgian representatives told a correspondent of the GIA that the information on some kinds of weapons used by Gudauta formations was not submitted altogether. No information on aircraft was provided, including planes SU-25, SU-27, helicopters MI-24, MI-28, AM-2, motorized hanggliders, and no weapons were removed from floating facilities.

Despite shortages of fuel and transport vehicles caused by a difficult situation in the west of Georgia Georgian authorities have withdrawn from Abkhazia 237 units of hardware and 4.304 personnel. A total of 30 units of military hardware have been brought to the Sukhumi sea port pending withdrawal. The withdrawal of the personnel, military hardware and Georgian weapons from the Gumista front has been practically completed, the statement said.

The Georgian side believes it is necessary to resolve the problem of the withdrawal of military hardware and weapons belonging to the Gudauta group from areas of their concentration beyond abkhazian borders or else these weapons be destroyed on the spot, the statement said.

Defense Ministry Denies Reports of Guards Clash

LD1309164093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The press center of the Georgian Ministry of Defense has refuted reports by the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet of armed clashes in the area of the settlement of Kelasuri between the Mingrelian population and Georgian guardsmen who have still not withdrawn from Abkhazia. There was no such incident, says the press center of the Georgian military department.

Statements by the Abkhazian side that heavy movement of armored vehicles is taking place on the Sukhumi-Ochamchire highway are also not in accordance with the facts. Georgia, the statement says, is strictly observing the Sochi agreement and attempting to carry out all of its points.

Parliament Speaker Confers With CSCE Mission Officials

LD1309182893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY reports that today Georgian Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze met the CSCE mission in Georgia led by Istvan Gyarmati, personal envoy to the CSCE chairman. An exchange of views was held on the work carried out by the CSCE mission toward settling the conflict in the Tskhinvali region. The Georgian parliament speaker thanked the guests for their help and gave them an in-depth analysis about Parliament's legislative activity and preparation of the constitution.

The guests familiarized the Georgian Parliament speaker with their impressions and cited a number of issues which, if resolved, would facilitate the establishing of peace in this region, where the rights of both the Ossetian and Georgian population must be equally observed.

Merab Klimiashvili, deputy chairman of Georgia's State Committee for Human Rights and Inter-ethnic Relations, participated in the meeting.

Estonia

Pope John Paul II Arrives in Tallinn

WS1009113393 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1055 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 10—Pope John Paul II arrived in Tallinn on the last stop at his one-week Baltic tour that took him also to Lithuania and Latvia.

The Pope knelt and kissed the ground at the airport after stepping down his Alitalia plane.

The Pope who was met by Estonia's President Lennart Meri and cabinet members held a greeting speech in Estonian language.

Stresses Human, Nations' Rights

WS1309132993 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1909 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 10—Pope John Paul II at the close of the highlight of his visit to Estonia, the Holy Mass at Tallinn's ancient Town Hall Square, which concluded his visit to the three Baltic states, called for observing both human and nations rights on the way to more fair and more democratic Europe.

The Pope said that now that we have passed the period when those rights were trampled, a period of fear before the great force, we must respect all nations. It cannot be a period when a small nation must fear for its rights, the Pope said, summarising his thoughts travelling through Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The Pope put a special emphasis on human rights. "The foundation of Christian and democratic Europe are the rights of the Man," the Pope stressed while adding that people must accept each other in human relations, in relations between nations, in relations between countries.

Co-existance was possible only if those two basic rights - human rights and nations' rights - were observed, the Pope said.

Acceptance and respect towards each other applied equally to big, smaller and small nations, the Pope stressed and warned that in case those rights were not observed we might return to times what we have already seen, to times when those rights were tread upon.

The Holy Mass was the last event on Pope's agenda in the Baltics.

The Pope will leave Tallinn for Vatican at 20:00 (local time) [1700 GMT].

Swedish Minister Meets Sildmae, Praises Cooperation

WS1409105193 Tallinn BNS in English 1609 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] TALLINN, Sept 13, BNS—Swedish Foreign Trade Minister Ulf Dinkelspiel is pleased with the stability of the Estonian national currency, the kroon, and the economic links of the two countries, the Estonian Economics Ministry's press service told BNS.

At his meeting with Estonian Economics Minister Toomas Sildmae today, Dinkelspiel expressed interest in investment openings, the possibility of buying land, the guarantees Estonia offers in privatization, and economic bottlenecks.

Dinkelspiel gave it as his opinion that Swedish entrepreneurs have been successful in making investments in Estonia, citing Electrolux and SAAB Scania. Some 38 percent (852 million kroons) of the foreign capital invested in Estonia derives from Sweden.

The Swedish minister spoke highly of the free trade agreement Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are about to conclude. He said that Sweden will honor its free trade agreements with the Baltic states also after it joins the European Community.

Sildmae and Dinkelspiel also discussed the Estonian-Swedish joint energy projects (development of the Estonian energy system, construction of a gas pipeline from Norway, and others) and the problems of Narva's industry.

Sildmae said the restructuring of the Kreenholmi Manufaktuur textile factory inevitably increased the number of the unemployed in Narva. The government has allocated the plant 40 million kroons to improve the situation and is negotiating a 6-million-U.S.-dollar loan with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Economics Ministry's press service reports that Estonia and Sweden have concluded 20 agreements, 11 of them in the sphere of economy.

Sweden holds the third place among Estonia's trading partners. In the first half-year, Estonia's exports to Sweden amounted to 493 million kroons (11.2 percent of the total) and imports from Sweden came to 500 million kroons (10.8 percent of the total).

Control Assumed Over Port at Former Soviet Base

WS1009113893 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 2128 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 8—Estonia's Defence Forces have taken over a port at a former Soviet submarine training base, Paldiski, and set up its own patrol, Edgar Haavik, the head of the army's maritime department, told ETA.

Haavik said the North port changed hands on Monday [6 September] and the first torpedo boat sunk by the Russian military was lifted up on Tuesday while divers were working at another boat, he said.

Sunken boats had long been an issue of dispute between Estonia's authorities and the Russian military. Estonia wanted Russia to clean the port while the latter wanted to evade the responsibility.

Finally, a commercial deal was struck. Joint-stock company Nescosub lifts up the boats, the Baltic Shipyard takes them to pieces and Dutch Delta Medical Scientific Instruments buys the scrap metal.

Laar Tells Party of 'Guaranteed' Economic Success

WS1309132793 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0747 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From 13 September RAHVA HAAL, p 2]

[Text] Monday, September 13—The "Fatherland" party held an election conference on Sunday [12 September]. Prime Minister Mart Laar held a political speech, claiming that Estonia has changed beyond recognition within a year. Inflation had slowed down to 0.7 percent in August and gross national product will rise 40 percent this year, he said. The success was guaranteed by radical economic policy, Laar stressed. He admitted the lack of success in combatting crime and corruption, but claimed that the government members cannot be blamed of corruption.

Deputy Chairman Kalle Jurgenson spoke about the party election programme and stressed the importance of ownership and agrarian reform and the restoration of rural life in Estonia.

Secretary General Ivo Rull described the election campaign, the new campaign song was performed and two new posters presented. Laar held a news conference afterwards, announcing that the programme and strategy of the "Fatherland" should assure the voters of its responsibility.

MP Enn Tarto who was to have chaired the conference together with Illar Hallaste, was absent, due to "family reasons", according to Rull.

New Private, Business Income Tax Rates Adopted

WS1309133393 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1909 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 10—Estonian government discussed a draft income tax law and adopted new rates of income taxation both for private persons and enterprises, at its Thursday [9 September] cabinet meeting.

According to Prime Minister Mart Laar, the income tax reform will be "very radical" but the government is convinced that it will help to collect taxes more effectively and accurately, thus being progressive, the government press service told ETA.

The reform of private persons income taxation will be fundamental, in that the amount of non-taxated income for a grown-up will be 2400 kroons a year and an additional 1200 kroon per child a year. The amount of income tax would be 25 per cent equally for everybody.

The amount of income tax for enterprises will be 30 per cent instead of the present 35 per cent.

According to Laar it is very important that in taxation the number of children in a family will be taken into account.

Income tax law will be presented for discussion to the Riigikogu next week.

Workers Threaten Strike at State Military Factory

WS1309133893 Tallinn BNS in English 1636 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, Sept 10, BNS - The workers of the state-owned Baltiyets factory that is in the process of liquidation threaten to go on strike if they are Sept. 14 not paid for the past months.

The liquidation commission decided Thursday to pay out 2.4 million kroons in wages and promised the workers they will receive the rest of arrears in wages as well as severance pay by Nov. 1.

The liquidation commission chairman, Raivo Linnas, told BNS that after two days of negotiations the commission and the factory's trade union committee agreed that the strike will not take place, but only on condition the workers get their pay Sept. 14.

The liquidation commission expects to obtain the necessary resources from the sale of the factory's car depot to the Border Guard Department. The government decided Sept. 7 to allocate 2.5 million kroons to the department for this purpose. The depot is valued at 3 million kroons.

The Border Guard Department previously received 500,000 kroons for the construction of a new car depot.

"Now all depends on the Border Guard Department, but it hasn't shown much interest in the business," Linnas told BNS.

"The department didn't even prepare the necessary documents for the government meeting."

Linnas still hopes the contract between the factory and the Border Guard Department will be signed Sept. 13 and the workers get paid the next day.

"If it fails, the Baltiyets workers will no longer heed calls to compromise or reason," Linnas said. "It will throw the liquidation into chaos."

The liquidation commission has also worked out tactics for selling the factory's other assets. The sale will be announced next week. Preliminary negotiations on two objects are in progress.

Baltiyets' liquidation commission has to pay the factory's employees 15.7 million kroons in final settlement. The enterprise's assets to be sold are estimated at 47 million kroons. Creditors' claims amount to 37 million kroons.

The government adopted the decision on the former military factory's liquidation July 7.

Latvia

Russian Delegation Agrees on Talks for 28 Sep

LD1409100993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Latvia's State President Guntis Ulmanis and Aleksandr Rannikh, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Russia to Latvia, discussed today issues related to the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia. They agreed that the talks on troop withdrawal between the delegations of the two states should resume at the earliest opportunity and that they should be more constructive.

A message was received from Moscow on Monday according to which Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation to the talks with Latvia, has agreed that the delegations of the two states can meet in Riga on 28 September.

Apart from that, Rannikh and Ulmanis discussed possibilities for economic cooperation between Latvia and Russia, as well as the political and economic situation in Russia.

Government Accepts Baltic Free Trade Treaty

LD1009200793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Cabinet of Ministers today accepted the Free Trade Treaty between Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Briefly describing the draft treaty, Olegs Pavlovskis, minister of state for foreign affairs, noted that this document corresponds to all international conditions and is the first step on the way to the European Community.

CSCE's Van der Stoel Meets With Andrejevs

LD1309135693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Max van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for minorities, of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, arrived in Riga again yesterday. According to a source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs press service, Van der Stoel's visit is apparently linked to the drafting of the citizenship law and other minority issues in Latvia.

Today Van der Stoel met with representatives of the Russian Embassy in Latvia and with Sergejs Dimanis from the Equal Rights movement. At this time Van der Stoel is meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs. Tomorrow he will meet with Latvia's Justice Minister Egils Levits, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, State President Guntis Ulmanis, as well as heads of several Saeima commissions.

State Statistics Committee Releases Figures

LD1209163993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0500 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Yesterday we received the following figures from the State Statistics Committee: From January up to the end of July public spending exceeded revenue by 12.2 million lats. Debts owed by enterprises to the state coffers increased in July by another 3 million lats.

Output value in August fell by 1.6 percent compared with July. Average monthly salary in July was just over 51 lats, a drop of 0.9 percent compared with June. Workers' purchasing power in July was 25 percent below last December's level.

Further on Data

WS1409105493 Tallinn BNS in English 1924 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Riga, Sept 13, BNS—As many as 562 self-governmental enterprises were privatized in Latvia since the start of the privatization in the country, according to figures from the State statistics committee.

From those, 257 are trading organizations, 52 belong to the public catering sphere and 253 deal with social utilities.

The facilities were sold for a total price of 3.2 million lats. From the total sum, 2.5 million lats were earned for trading organizations, 271,000 lats for public catering points and 452,000 lats for social utilities.

A half of the enterprises was sold by installments, with the first payment accounting for one-third of the total value. Only 8 percent of enterprises were privatized in auctions.

The process resulted in an altered retail circulation structure. Thus, 34 percent of the total retail turnover was made

by state and municipal businesses, 20 percent—by statutory companies, 44 percent—by cooperative companies and only 2 percent—by individual enterprises.

Figures on Land Privatization

WS1409105693 Tallinn BNS in English 1924 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Riga, Sept 13, BNS—The rural privatization in Latvia resulted in the creation of 953 agricultural statutory companies by Sept. 1.

From those, nine are joint-stock companies, 450 are share companies, 296 have a limited responsibility status, 163 are cooperative companies and 272 are dairy-farmers cooperatives, according to figures from the State statistics committee.

By the time, 30 statutory companies have announced about their self-liquidation and 203 have ceased to exist.

As many as 53,700 individual farms received totally 903,000 hectares of land by Aug. 1, according to figures from the Agricultural Ministry.

The individual land ownership makes up 27 percent of land at the disposal of agricultural enterprises and companies.

All in all, Latvia privatized 4.8 million hectares or 84 percent of agricultural and forestry land by Aug. 1.

Lithuania

Butkevicius Discusses Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD1009162493

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1300 GMT on 10 September carries a one-hour live relay from the Lithuanian Seimas in Vilnius. The plenary session begins with a brief report by Audrius Butkevicius, minister of national defense, on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Lithuania. This is followed by a short report by Povilas Gylys, minister of foreign affairs, who concentrates mainly on the diplomatic aspect of the troops withdrawal. Seimas members then ask questions about the process of the withdrawal of the troops.

Seimas member Audrius Rudys asks: "We remember that during the period of cooling in our relations Russia made a firm statement in which it was mentioned that if any provocations started while the Russian troops were still deployed in the country strict decisive and some other practical measures would be taken. I would like to ask Minister Butkevicius the following: now that the Russian troops are no longer deployed in this country, in other words this statement is no longer valid with regard to the Russian servicemen—if this statement is no longer valid then what is being done by National Defense Ministry officials and the police to protect Russian servicemen from provocations?"

Butkevicius replies: "I can responsibly say that the Russian troops are no longer deployed in Lithuania; however, some Russian servicemen and members of their families still remain here. Until now this statement in which the measures were named and which, by the way, have nothing to do with either international trust or good-neighbourly relations with the Republic of Lithuania, has not been revoked by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Already after the withdrawal of the Russian troops I had an opportunity to talk on the phone to several high-ranking officials from the Russian Ministry of Defense. I did not receive any confirmation from them that the intention, confirmed by the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, to defend the interests of the Russian citizens in Lithuania with force of arms has been revoked.

"I also mentioned here in my speech that no confirmation in writing that the pullout of the Russian troops has been completed has been received from the Russian side. Therefore, I think that there is a considerable amount of work in regulating the relations between the Republic of Lithuania and Russia to be carried out by our diplomats."

Brazauskas Sends 'Message of Thanks' to NATO

LD1009172393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] A report has been received by ELTA from the Lithuanian president's press spokesman that President Algirdas Brazauskas sent a letter to NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner.

The letter contains a message of thanks for the active support from the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the consistent stance adopted by NATO on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania.

The letter maintains that the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania brings closer the time when Russian troops will leave Estonia and Latvia.

Brazauskas also expressed Lithuania's aspirations to integrate into the European Community and other European political, economic, and security structures, and to improve relations with Russia and other neighbors.

Slezevicius Meets With U.S. Environmental Official

WS1309144993 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1250 GMT 13 Sep 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 330]

[Text] Vilnius, ELTA—Head of the U.S. Environmental Agency 5th region Valdas Adamkus met Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and had a conversation about security guarantees in Ignalina nuclear plant,

future oil terminal in Butinge and the whole oil procession complex. Adamkus said the terminal which is to be started to build late this year, would be an historical breakthrough.

Adamkus was reported to have interested representatives of the U.S. military institutions with problems of Zokniai airport and guaranteed their technical and financial support cleaning up the airport from harmful waste.

As the daily "Tiesa" and other papers wrote, Adamkus suggested to create a board with vast powers that could solve more effectively questions significant to Lithuania—and it could be a Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Adamkus is going to participate in a meeting of Lithuanian and Estonian environmental workers and in an international conference where representatives of Swedish and Danish environmental services should take part.

IMF Approves Bank of Lithuania Monetary Policy

LD1309103893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0600 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] The BALTIC NEWS SERVICE reports that the IMF's opinion is that the monetary policy pursued by the Lithuanian Bank is very successful, especially in curbing inflation. This was said by Adelbert Knobel, head of the IMF Baltic sector, at a news conference in Vilnius. A group of experts headed by Mr. Knobel is currently on a visit to Vilnius to complete the coordination of a memorandum on Lithuania's economic policy for the period of 18 months.

At the same time the IMF representative criticized the Bank of Lithuania for organizing auctions of hard currency only for enterprises and excluding the commercial banks.

Editorial Notes Restriction of Press Freedom

WS1009133193 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 25 Aug 93 No. 163 p 2

[Editorial: "Ethical Journalism—Catching Up With Europe"]

[Text] Today's issue of TIESA is publishing a resolution "On Ethics in Journalism" adopted by the European Council Parliamentary Assembly on 1 July. This document has great significance for each European Council member, all the more for Lithuanian journalism and social and government institutions that are only learning to enjoy freedom, democracy, and the ensuing rights and commitments.

The resolution repeatedly stresses that information is one of the fundamental human rights affirmed in documents of most world and European organizations. Journalists—mediators in circulating information—are guarantors of democracy and openness. A democratic society of citizens is impossible without the free fourth power.

The resolution statements that publications must clearly differentiate between news and opinions, that reports must be true and opinions honest, and that refutation of false information should be adequate to its announcement, are still a pressing problem for Lithuanian journalism.

Does freedom of the press exist in Lithuania today? Although sometimes criticism is voiced concerning the authorities, to be honest, we should admit the existence of this freedom. Sometimes there may be too much freedom, that is, such freedom that is not restricted by responsibility. These are the ills of our unprofessional, maturing, and maybe politicizing journalism.

The demand that each publication must be thoroughly objective is unfeasible. Only the total of the mass media can reflect the entire scope of Lithuania's cultural, political, and economic life. The fact that non-state publications defend different political, economic, and moral principles testifies to our society's correct road to a civil state.

The country's largest newspapers seem to be distributed in the most ideal manner. LIETUVOS AIDAS is a tribune of the right-wing parties and movements. TIESA supports the Seimas majority, the president, and the government in principle. Recent comments and irate editorials monopolized by centrist R. Ozolas and liberal R. Valatka demonstrate that LIETUVOS RYTAS is committed to centrist forces. True, the latter is permanently stressing its independence. However, LIETUVOS AIDAS also calls itself a state newspaper, but does anyone believe this?

This group of four is crowned with RESPUBLIKA that could be assessed as independent due to its ownership form and its criticism from the left to the right.

The European Council resolution states: Authorities should not treat information as their private property. On the contrary, they must create all conditions for disseminating information, promoting pluralism in the media, and preventing public or hidden censorship.

The mass media under state ownership should be maximally protected from authorities' interference and depoliticized. However, this problem is still urgent both for Lithuania's government and the journalists.

Undoubtedly, the authorities must honor the media law, which we sometimes miss. Just like the press can criticize the government, the latter can express its opinion about the media. However, the authorities should forget the categories of prohibiting or restricting. They should do this only because of their incompetent mistake when issuing a law restricting the contents of advertisements,

and defining the principles for reporting on the Seimas sessions. This blunder has undermined the authorities' prestige.

The media law that was adopted before the dawn of independence is still valid in Lithuania. Although it defends the word freedom from censorship, it does not meet all current social and press requirements. One can admit with self-criticism that the press is not faultless. However, an epidemic of law proceedings against it puts one on the alert: Is this an uncommon wish to silence the press? Judges often confuse authors and editorial boards, they do not recognize press conferences as public podiums, and they treat metaphors literally.

Society and journalists themselves should see to it that the Seimas adopt a media law that would meet international requirements.

It is impossible and meaningless to comment more broadly on the European Council document published today. This resolution must be read, studied, and primarily understood and turned into a guideline.